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New track surface for Butterdome

"It was probably a

quarter of what its

original thickness was

when they started to

tear it up. There were

holes everywheres."

EVAN DAUM News Staff

After nearly three decades of use, the Universiade Pavilion is getting a much-needed facelift with the installation of a new \$1.1 million surface to replace the existing track inside the multipurpose facility.

Built for the 1983 Summer Universiade, the Pavilion, or Butterdome as it's more commonly known, was in need of a new surface after the existing track quickly began

to show its age.

"It was starting to wear. It was probably a quarter of what its original thickness was when they started to tear it up. There were holes everywhere," said U of A Track and Field head coach Georgette Reed.

Physical Education

Operations Service Coordinator Dean Budynski said they knew the surface was deteriorating.

"We knew it needed to be changed a few years back, so we started planning it, and went through Facilities Management to make sure we could budget it," he said.

The budgeting for the project came from a deferred maintenance grant from the provincial government, with the Butterdome project being one of many to receive funding.

Hosting everything from track and field meets to the annual Butterdome Craft Sale, the facility is one of the busiest in the Capital region, with approximately 25 large events a year.

"The Pavilion is used so much during the year not only for varsity teams, but for recreational events, and

other university events. I wouldn't be surprised if there were a couple million users a year on it when you look at all the different events that go on in there," Reed said.

The existing surface was made by the Italian company Mondo — one of the world's top providers of athletic surfaces, and supplier for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

With elite track and field venues around the world choosing Mondo, coupled with its remarkable durabil-

> ity, a return to the brand was an attractive choice from the outset of the project.

"It turned out Mondo was the best deal for us. They had the best offer, so we went with their surface," Reed said.

"It's what most

of the training and competitive track and field surfaces are made of. It's a very good quality product and wears very well. It's also multipurpose, so you can use the Butterdome for other events."

GEORGETTE REED

TRACK & FIELD COACH

With an estimated lifespan of nearly 15 years, the existing Mondo surface inside the Pavilion has long outlasted initial predictions.

"It worked out so well for us that Mondo uses us as an example to try and make sales. The company can say 'we put it in 1983, and here it is 2010 when we we're finally pulling it out," Budynski said.

The project began on May 10, and work is expected to be completed by mid-July, with the Butterdome tentatively scheduled to re-open July 19, if work remains on schedule.



Students protest Gaza strip blockade

SIMON YACKULIC **Deputy News Editor**

University of Alberta researchers have discovered spontaneously active receptors in the spinal cord

Hope for spinal injuries

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE **Senior News Editor**

Bucking conventional knowledge, University of Alberta researchers have identified spontaneously active receptors in the spine that could be used to help treat victims of spinal cord injury.

David Bennett and Karim Fouad from the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine have discovered that the neurotransmitter serotonin, partially responsible for motor function, is not needed to activate receptors in the spinal column.

"These receptors, that serotonin activates normally in the spinal cord, become active on their own, spontaneously, many months after injury. Basically what it boils down to is the spinal cord wakes up on its own," Bennett said.

The neurotransmitter serotonin is responsible for alertness and readies neurons in different parts of the body. With spinal injury, the cord is either severed or partially severed, so the neurotransmitter has no access to the receptors within.

PLEASESEE **SPINE •** PAGE 2

A crowd of 300 Edmontonians, including many University of Alberta students, protested the Israeli boarding of Gaza-bound ships and the ongoing blockade of the Gaza strip, assembling outside the provincial legislature on June 1.

A handful of organizers arrived early to prepare posters and the crowd swelled as more individuals arrived waving Palestinian and Turkish flags and shouting "free Palestine."

Ibrahim Abu-Rabi, a professor of Islamic Studies at the U of A who was at the rally, decried Israel's raid on Monday as a "great tragedy" and hoped the rally would catch people's attention.

"We are too far from the Middle East physically, but what we can do is enlighten people of the Palestinians' side," Abu-Rabi said.

Earlier this week, a convoy of six ships — calling itself the "freedom flotilla" - carried aid supplies and about 700 activists on a journey from Cyprus towards the coast of Gaza.

After informing the ships that they would not be allowed to reach Gaza, Israeli soldiers boarded and took control of the vessels on Monday, leading to the deaths of at least nine activists and many leaving soldiers and activists injured.

Sara Hussein and Linda Shawar, rally organizers, explained that they hoped the event would send an international message from Edmonton.

"[It was held] to make our presence known," Shawar said. "So that the world knows that the Edmonton Arab community, and the Edmonton community in general, condemns the acts that happened on the flotilla," she added.

Speaking prior to the rally, Joel French, an executive of the U of A's Palestine Solidarity Network, said that the convoy was intended as a statement.

"I realize that it's not just a humanitarian convoy, and it has a political purpose," French said.

"Its primary purpose was to point out that Israel is still controlling parts of Gaza. They're controlling the sea, the air, and the land crossing. Basically, nobody can get in or out of Gaza; no goods can get into Gaza unless Israel says so," he said.

Incoming Co-President of the U of A based Edmonton Hillel Jewish Student's Association Daniel Larson cautioned against overreacting to the boarding of the flotilla.

PLEASE SEE **RALLY *** PAGE3



Katz's arena scheme

The Gateway's Cody Civiero tears down the Katz group's plan to build a new arena with public funds.

OPINION, PAGE 6



Alberta's links game

The Bears and Pandas golf teams are hitting the long ball this week in Fredericton for national glory.

SPORTS, PAGE 13

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colophon

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Evan Daum, Bren Cargill, Paul Swanson, Aaron Yeo, Cyril Balitbit, Andrea Luft, Nathan Kan, Kristen Pue, Tyler Dawson, Cody Civiero, Bruce Cinnamon, Christina Wolinski, Dan Watson, Sarolta Saskiw, Pete Yee, Mack Male, Ross Lockwood, Doug Johnson, Faye Campbell.

THE GATEWAY CAMPUS **CRIME BEAT**

Compiled by Cody Civiero

SMOOTH OPERATOR

On May 27 at 4:25 p.m., the University switchboard operator advised Campus Security that they had received approximately 50 calls from a male with an accent seeking the names of University employees alphabetically.

The caller told the operator he was an employee with the Bank of America calling from Denver, Colorado and that he needed to speak with people about their account numbers.

When asked for his name, the male would hang up, but would repeatedly call back and try again. Needless to say, no information was released to him. However, CSS still sent out a campus alert informing the campus community of the scam and advising them to contact CSS if called by the man.

CONSTRUCTING A SHORTCUT

At 3:56 a.m on May 29, a witness reported to CSS that he had observed several youths entering the heating plant construction site by jumping the fence. Four males were stopped but denied entering the site. They were warned not to shortcut through construction sites, but to take the long way home.

ONE COFFEE TO GO

CSS received a report of a female entering the new housing complex in East Campus Village at 7:11 p.m. on May 30. The female was seen carrying a Tim Horton's coffee. CSS checked the area but couldn't locate the woman.

FAB FATIGUE

On May 31 at 9:07 a.m, CSS encountered two males and a female asleep in the main floor lounge of the Fine Arts Building. One male, known to CSS, was given a trespass summons and his companions were issued trespass notices.



TIGHT ROPE Two U of A students practiced their slackline skills in Quad.

Physical therapy can restore motor function

SPINE • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This lack of access is part of the reason for paralysis. Bennett described it as having a spinal cord that is asleep.

Typically, the idea has been that without chemical access to receptors, they became inactive. But the U of A team has shown that this is not the case. With the discovery of spontaneously active receptors, the team sees several valuable applications.

The first is that this knowledge can be used to develop a potential treatment plan for injuries to restore some motor function or movement.

"The spinal cord is in this wakeful state ready to go. All it takes is even a small amount of residual descending connections to trigger walking movements or other motor functions," Bennett said.

He added that the best way to utilize these residual connections is through physical therapy.

"Of course, since you have a spinal cord injury, the functions are never going to be perfect, but with training those people can learn to reuse this residual function," Bennett said. "You basically have to relearn all these functions like walking, but it's surprising how much training can help that."

In addition to training, there are

drugs called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors that could help enhance residual connection when desired.

However, permanent wakefulness of the spinal cord is often undesired; this can contribute to muscle spasms, which is a major problem among paralysis patients that is not easily solved by typical anti-spastic drugs.

"Your spinal cord is in a permanent wakeful state and it's also not very well-controlled from the brain. So, if you have someone with spinal cord injury and you pinch the skin or some sort of sensory input that comes to the spinal cord, you can trigger uncontrolled movements or spasms."

But Bennett says that they can apply their discovery to find more effective drugs to treat spasms. His team has been examining cyproheptadine, an antihistamine that may block serotonin receptors, and they plan to continue with this research.

Bennett added that the discovery is exciting because it was so unexpected.

"It's a bizarre thing where the receptor turns on without there being a transmitter or a chemical, and that hasn't ever been shown in the spinal cord before. That concept is really a unique concept."

CORRECTION

In Council Forum (May 20), Hardave Birk was incorrectly identified as the VP (External) for the University of Lethbridge Students' Union. Birk is the VP (External) for the University of Calgary Students' Union. The Gateway regrets the error.

STREETERS

Lister Hall. Some of the beds in

MacKenzie Hall have been there since

the 1970s. I think they changed the beds

once because of bedbugs, but they still

must be pretty damn old.

Compiled and photographed by



Michael Blanchette Engineering III



Paul Lummis Graduate Studies



I would say the actual exterior of the

Butterdome. I know that it has a place on

campus but it is just truly horrific.

As you may be aware, the Butterdome is receiving a new track surface.



What else do you think could use a renovation on campus?

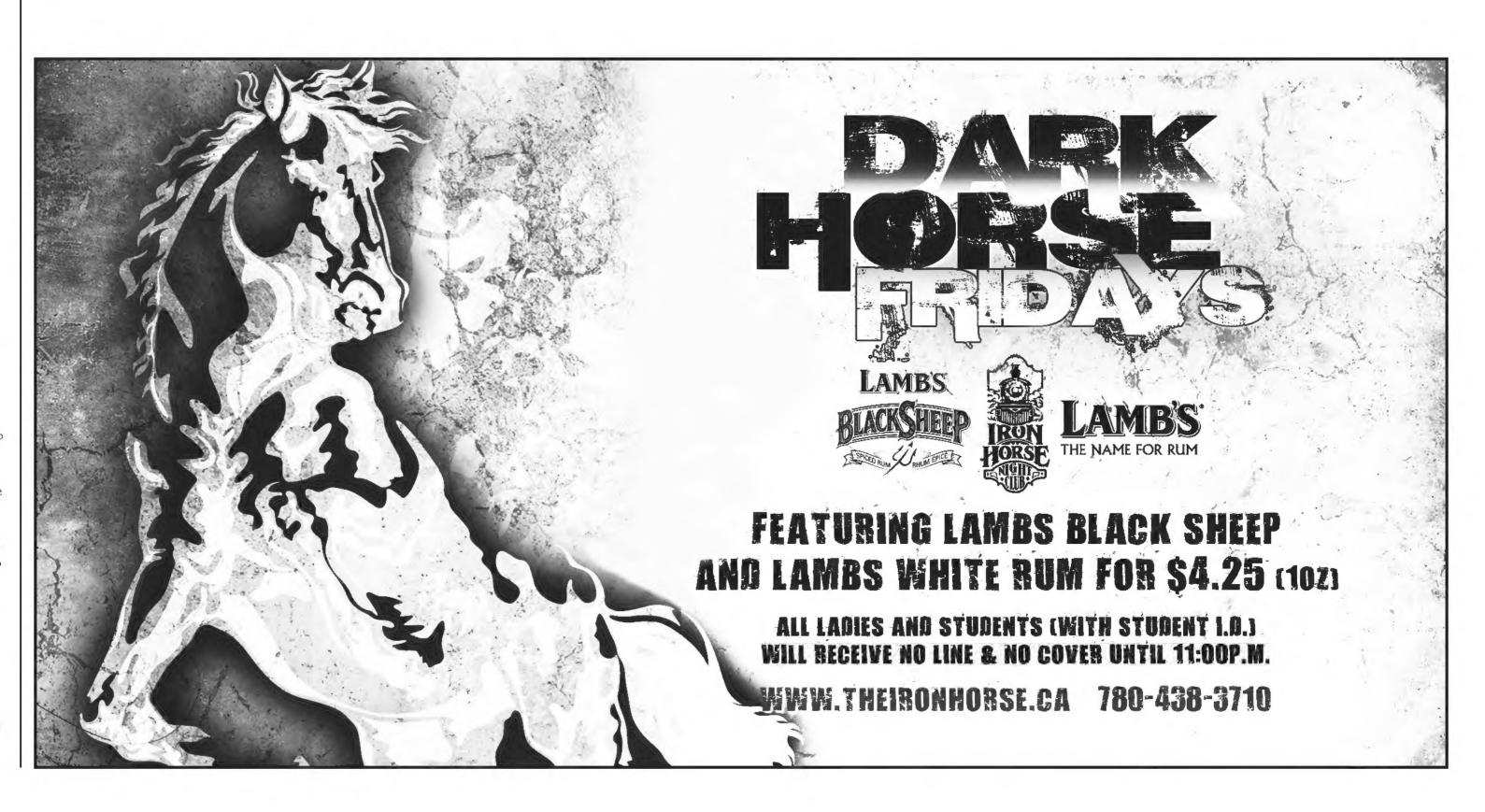
Nick Gosso Engineering III



Marisa Jans Science IV

I would say Cameron Library. Just because it's old and a piece of shit. Considering it's the only place to study late at night, it would be nice if it wasn't so nasty and depressing in there.

They could bring back some of the water fountains in places like CAB and Chemistry, because most of them are either not working or have been taken away.



THE GATEWAY • volume CI summer issue 3

U of A honours achievement students' union

Exceptional individuals recognized at June covocation ceremonies

BRUCE CINNAMON News Staff

Over the next week, the University Senate will recognize 12 individuals with honourary doctorates as they deliver addresses to students at convocation ceremonies.

Linda Hughes, Chancellor of the University of Alberta Senate, described the honourary degrees process as a way of acknowledging outstanding individuals.

"It's a way of recognizing people who have shown leadership or given back to the community in some way," she said.

In addition to honouring the recipients themselves, Hughes explained that the Senate also looks to provide a great experience for students at convocation.

"[We want] to provide some inspirational role models and speakers for students as they graduate and to make connections between the university and some of these people."

The University of Alberta confers three honourary degrees: Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Science, and Doctor of Letters.

The Office of the Chancellor describes the ideal candidates as "exceptional individuals in a broad range of categories: the arts, public service, business, athletics, health services, national or international leadership, professional and voluntary service in the community at large, and exemplary service of long-standing and unusual merit to the University."

According to Hughes, the nomination process is kept open and the Senate Honourary Degrees Committee welcomes all submissions.

"Anybody can nominate: anybody from the public to members of the university community to senators themselves. You can nominate somebody and a dean can nominate



GO FORTH The honourary doctorates will address June's graduating classes.

someone," she said.

Several of this year's recipients are U of A alumni, such as Enbridge CEO Patrick Daniel and Former Chief Justice of the Court of the Queen's Bench of Alberta Allan Wachowich. However, the Senate does not discriminate in favour of alumni or local nominees.

"We don't have any fixed matrix or criteria between local, national, international [nominees or] alumni. We try to just decide on merit. Obviously, we're very happy when an alumnus comes forward and appears to us to be a person that we would really like to recognize. We also have some honourary degrees that go to local leaders, but there's no fixed criteria balancing them," Hughes said.

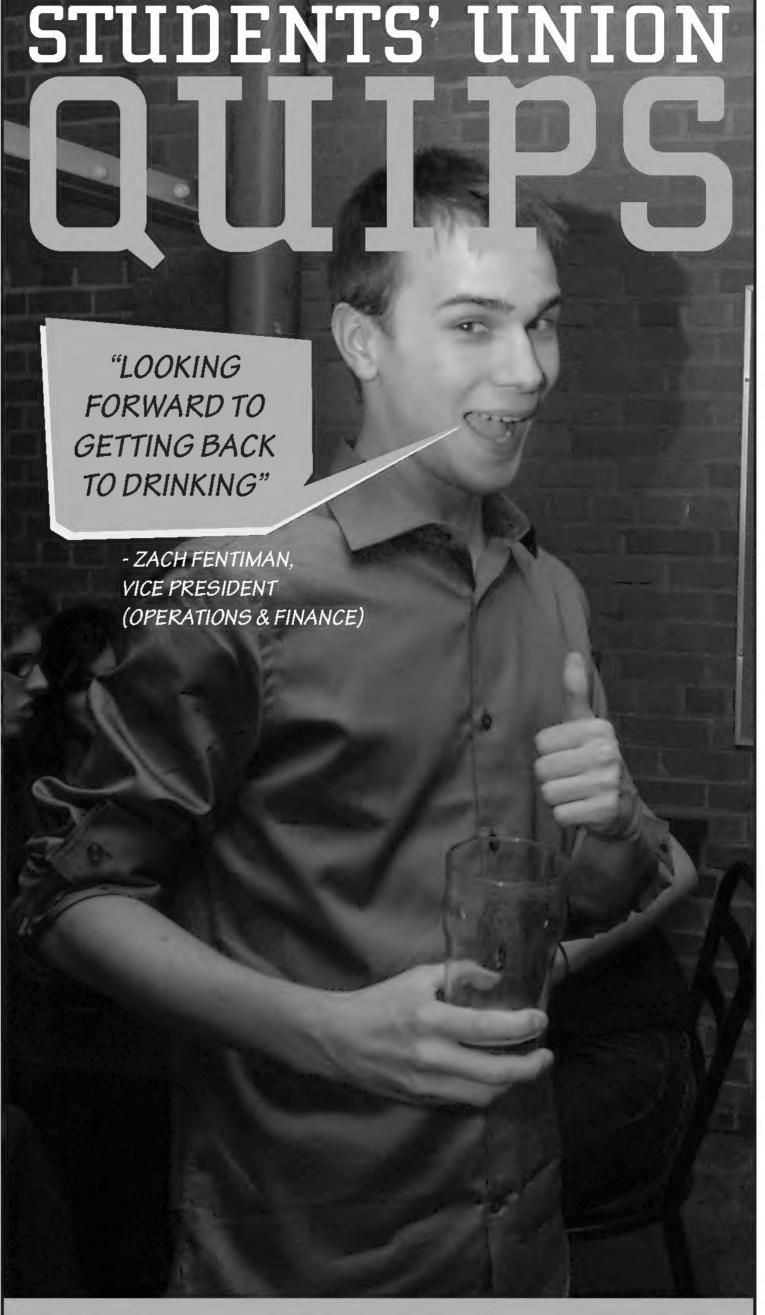
Many of this year's recipients are international, including Kay Raseroka of Botswana and Romila Thapar of India. Hughes said the Senate chose several recipients, regardless of nationality, based on a common theme.

"We are honouring four different people who have connections with libraries, and they were nominated by Ernie Ingles, the Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian. It seemed like a really good opportunity to celebrate our library by bringing in four worldrenowned librarians."

The U of A's honourary degree program has lauded many famous people in the past. Hughes mentioned that former recipients Desmond Tutu, Mother Theresa, and k.d. lang are some of "the most prominent individuals" to be awarded an honourary doctorate.

This year, graduating students will hear from a wide range of recipients, depending on their specific faculty of study. Regardless of their various fields, Hughes said she is looking forward to the addresses.

"They are all interesting people. It is amazing how bright they are and how happy they are to be here," Hughes said. "I'm just excited to meet them."



General Volunteer Meeting

June 24 at 5 p.m. 3-04 Students' Union Building

GATEWAY NEWS

Driving SU execs to drink since 1910

campus digest

Compiled by Simon Yackulic

MORELAYOFFS ON THE HORIZON

Provost Carl Amrhein announced that 43 staff have been involuntarily laid off and another 181 staff have left, choosing the U of A's Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program. The announcement was made at the General Faculties Council on Monday, May 31.

Amrhein also told the GFC that the total number of jobs lost will be higher, though he expects to have more information by the fall. He expects the final losses to be in the range of "between 50 and 75 people."

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS

While they make up about half the population and hold 16 Nobel Prizes in Science, when the Government announced the scientists that were awarded the inaugural Canada Excellence Research Chairs, none of the 19 positions were awarded to women.

Nor were any women listed among the 36 shortlisted nominees. To investigate this fairly unbalanced outcome, the federal government asked a panel of academics, including the U of A's President Indira Samarasekera, to look into the matter. The panel produced a list of recommendations on how

the program could change in order to attract more female talent.

The U of A received the most Canada Excellence Research Chairs out of any Canadian institution: four men, who will receive \$10 million each for research over seven years.

HUNGER AWARENESS DAY

June 1 was Hunger Awareness Day and the Campus Food Bank distributed apples and pamphlets with information about hunger and food insecurity on campus to mark the day. The food bank served over 2000 individuals last year, and relies on donations from the university community.

The food bank accepts donations of both perishable and non-perishable food items, as well as toiletry items. Monetary donations also allow them the flexibility to purchase items that are most needed. The Campus Food Bank is located in the basement of SUB, room 040-J.

PROGRAM SPOTS CUT IN MEDICINE

Facing a tight budget, the U of A will be offering fewer medical seats in the fall. While last September 188 students were accepted to the program, this year the university will only be welcoming 167.

Although there will still be fewer physicians graduating in Alberta, the numbers are not as high as had been expected. The U of A indicated that up to 50 medical seats lacked provincial funding in April.

Students gather at the Legislature

RALLY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE1

In commenting on the incident, Larson emphasized that while Hillel is "pro-Israel, that does not mean every Israeli policy" and that neither he nor Hillel were claiming to speak for anyone.

"I feel its been blown up as an issue, not to try to detract from anything — it's unfortunate that it even happened, that it had to come to this. I'm sorry that there was a loss of life," he said.

However, Larson also warned that there has been mixed information regarding the flotilla's claim that it was a 'peace flotilla.'

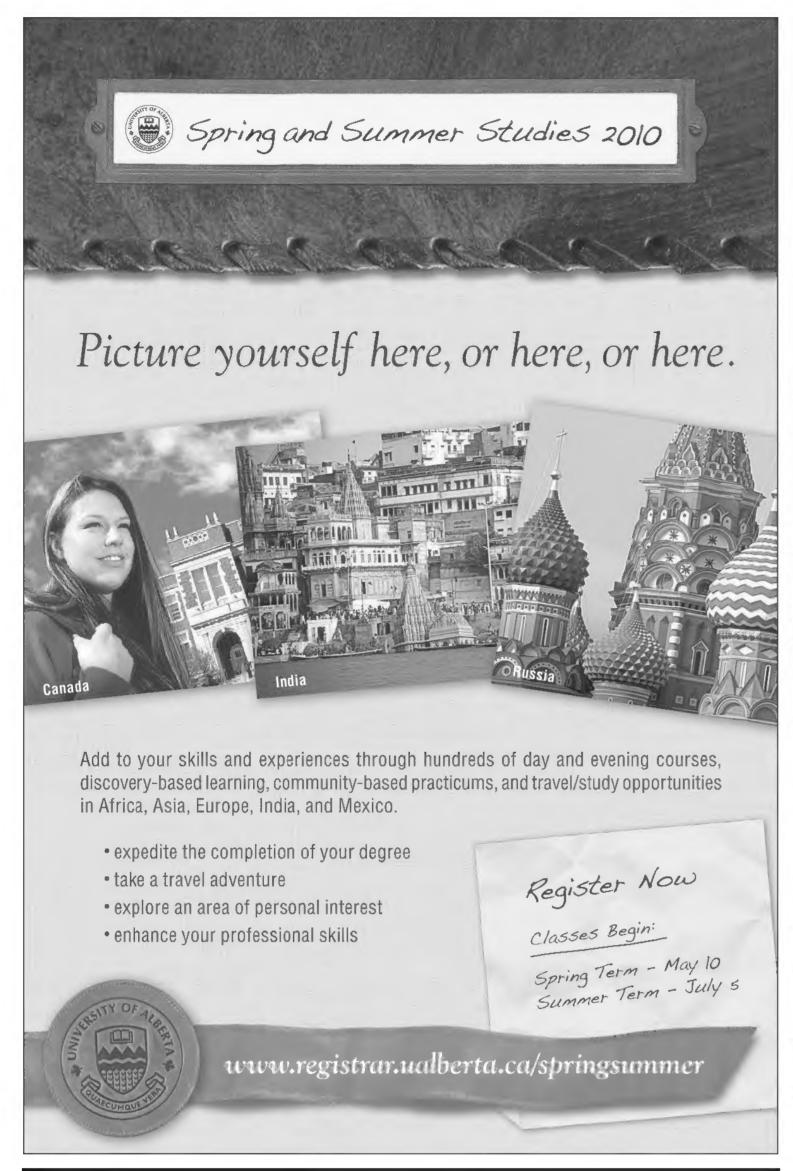
"There's been information coming forward that there were weapons onboard the ships," he said.

"They knew that there was going to be some kind of confrontation, and it seems to be that the focus was not so much on getting the aid to Gaza; it was on making a show, a statement."

Larson added that there is a rationale for the blockade.

"As is known, there is a lot of gun running to Gaza. Israel didn't want weapons being sent to Gaza to be used against its own population, as has been happening."





Cape Town:

the crown jewel of South Africa. In two weeks, it will be brimming with the world's soccer fans as the nation hosts the 2010 World Cup, and the Gateway's Devin Frobb will be there to capture the atmosphere of the games. Check out our online World Cup blog at thegatewayonline.ca beginning Monday, June 14.

Then watch for a World Cup wrap-up at the beginning of September.

THE GATEWAY

Just like a waiving flag since 1910



U of A expands Devonian facilities

SAROLTA SASKIW **News Writer**

The University of Alberta will be constructing a new ecological learning centre at the Devonian Botanic Garden to provide more classroom and laboratory space for students, faculty, and the surrounding community.

Bruce Dancik, director of the Devonian Botanic Garden and professor emeritus in renewable resources at the U of A, explained that the new centre will help serve all visitors.

"The ecological learning centre will add dramatically to the Devonian Botanic Garden by broadening our reach, better serving our visitors and students, and providing a nice space for the them to learn and enjoy the world of plants and our natural environments," he said.

Dancik said that part of the focus of the centre would be to add classroom space for a variety of audiences: children in early grades, high school, regular university courses, and adult education.

"The Devonian Botanic Garden currently has very limited all-weather classroom space, so we are not able to respond to the current demand for educational programs. The ecological learning centre would give us some much needed year-round capacity to offer a variety of courses at all levels."

Dancik added that the courses will be open to all students, not only those in the environmental sciences areas.

"We want to offer regular university courses where there would be demand for courses in the west-end of Edmonton. Some students could have a class in a classroom adjacent to an outdoor laboratory setting, while others might be able to take advantage of an evening course that was offered near their west-end residence."

Dancik feels that the surrounding community can greatly benefit from the centre, and he hopes it will serve as a hub of learning in the future.

The Devonian Botanic Garden, located in Devon, was established in 1959. It's a 190-acre property made up of manicured gardens, mixed woodland vegetation, and an extensive nature trail system. It features 80 acres of display gardens and 110 additional acres of natural areas and ecological preserves.

The design of the ecological learning centre has not yet been chosen. The U of A has issued a request for proposals from design consultants for the construction of the centre. The expected cost will be anywhere from \$16-20 million.

BMI connected to neighbourhood traffic

DAN WATSON **News Writer**

A study led by a University of Alberta researcher has found a surprising connection between people's perceptions of traffic in their neighbourhoods and changes in their body mass indexes.

The study was led by Tanya Berry, an assistant professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, and was published in February in the International Journal of Obesity.

Her team surveyed Edmontonians from neighbourhoods of varying socio-economic statuses (SES), and found that those who perceived traffic to be a problem where they lived were more likely to see an increase in their BMIs over the course of the study, which was done from 2002 to 2008.

"It didn't matter whether they were in mid, low, or high SES neighbourhoods; those who agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that traffic made it unpleasant to walk had higher increases in BMI, independent of the SES," Berry said.

She said the results of the study, as well as others like it, show that the connection between obesity and the structure of neighbourhoods is not as strong as was previously thought. Walkability will actually be a greater indicator of whether or not residents of a neighbourhood will have increased BMI.

Although the study reinforced a known connection between low SES and obesity, objective measures of traf-



DANMCKECHNIE

TOO MUCH TRAFFIC Perceptions of high traffic might discourage activity.

fic in these neighbourhoods weren't shown to be the causes of increased BMI in survey participants.

"Surprisingly, I thought the traffic would be a bigger problem in the lower SES neighbourhoods, because they tend to be inner-city neighbourhoods; but no, it wasn't related," Berry said.

"Most of the studies that have related [BMI and] the walkability [of neighbourhoods] have been crosssectional, so basically just snapshots at one time. But some of the longitudinal studies, including ours, have really started to bring this relationship into question."

The study focused on both perceived and objective measures of neighbourhood walkability.

Berry said the study asked people about their perceptions of their neighbourhoods — things like crime, proximity to public transit, and if their neighbours seemed active but none of these registered the same correlation as opinions of traffic did to BMI.

"Of course there are so many other influences on obesity. But what we did find was that perceptions of traffic, whether traffic made it really uncomfortable or unpleasant to walk, did have an influence on obesity. Why that's happening we're not entirely sure."

The study also found that younger people were more likely to increase their BMIs over the six-year period.

OPINION

Synthetic life is a genuine risk

LAST WEEK, IN A PAPER PUBLISHED IN THE journal *Science*, a Maryland laboratory team led by J. Craig Venter, the man responsible for the initial sequencing of the human genome, revealed that they had successfully created life in a lab — the world's first synthetic organism. The ensuing debate is neither surprising nor unexpected.

Since the cloning of Dolly the sheep, two sides have emerged in the discussion on "how far is too far" when it comes to tampering with life. While many would automatically assume religious groups make up the majority of the opposition to projects like this, there are other reasons to be wary of this type of technology.

There are many useful possible applications of this type of technology. However, even if scientists are using technology intending to help, they may end up accidentally doing more harm than good. One of the potential benefits that has already been discussed is the creation of micro-organisms that could clean up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

This all sounds nice on the surface, but adding a new life form to an already-established food chain rarely works as planned. Scientists may say that they would only make the additions in a controlled way, but there's no way they can predict every scenario. This isn't the movie *Splice*, and it's unlikely that we're going to create life forms that will eventually rise up and conquer us.

But once we let these new micro-organisms loose, it's out of our hands. We are creating new life forms that have no natural predators, and we cannot know how that will affect the ecosystem to which they're released.

There have been countless instances where species have been introduced to a new area and ultimately disrupt the ecosystem or become pests. Yhe Asian carp — native to Europe and Asia — was introduced in Canada in the 1970s to clean up unwanted algae in agricultural ponds. However, they escaped into natural waters thanks to flooding and are now a huge nuisance because they have no natural predators here.

Before we get carried away with technology, we need rules in place to ensure that people are going to use technology responsibly. Of course, this creates logistical problems. Just because this technology has been developed in the United States, doesn't mean it should automatically fall to them to monitor its use. This is something that will likely affect the entire world, so there needs to be the establishment of some kind of international agency to examine and monitor its uses.

There are watchdog agencies in existence, such as the Canadian-based ETC Group, but they typically have no real power to exact change. These groups usually serve simply as a voice of dissent when a new technology surfaces.

What we need is a large-scale organization that will be recognized as an authority on the subject by governments across the world. This organization could examine the impact of technological advances through research and consult stakeholder groups such as scientists, environmentalists, and policy makers. This way, we could work towards using technology in the most beneficial and responsible ways, rather than just arguing over whether or not it is good or bad.

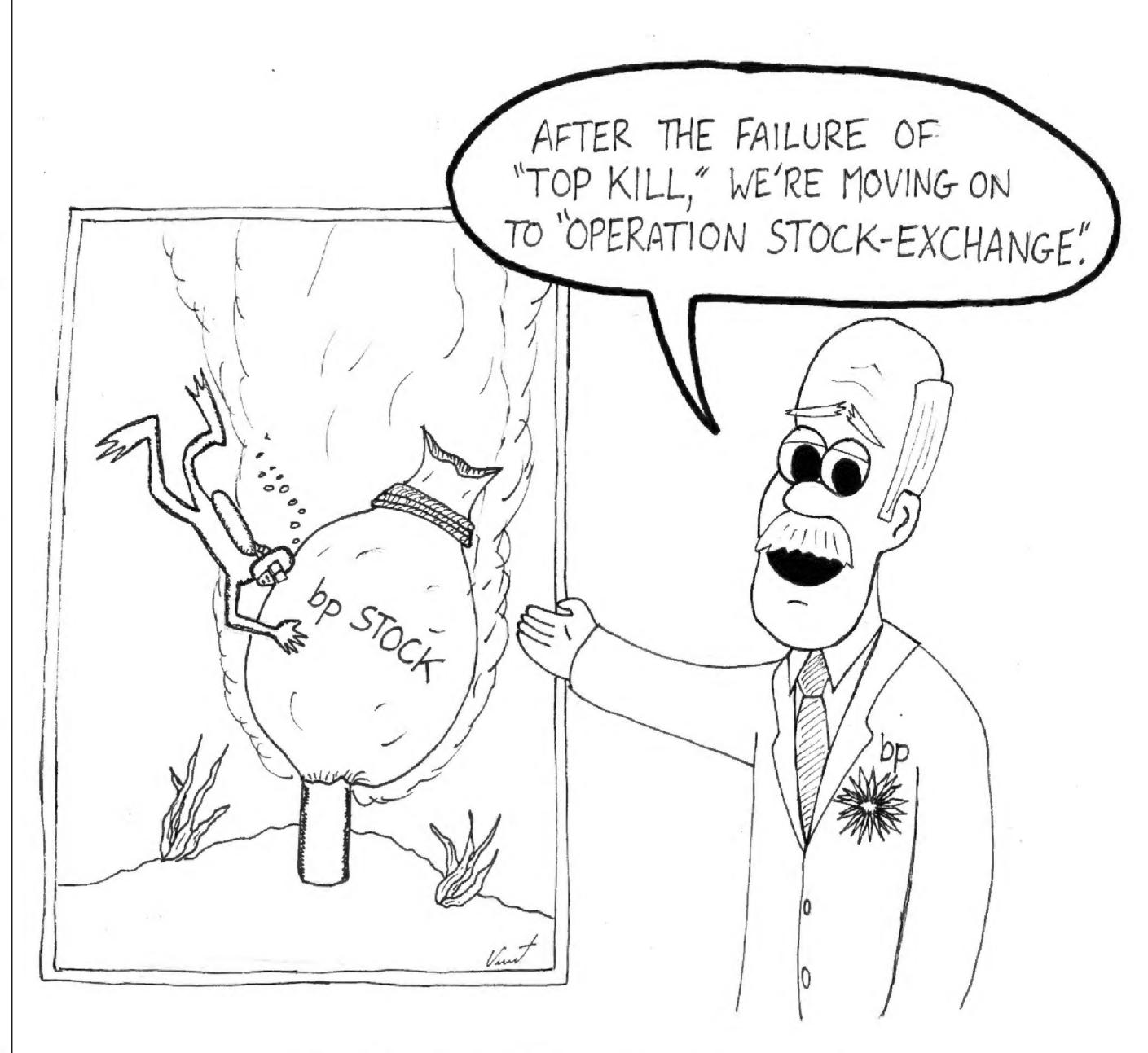
Certainly, synthetic life forms would be useful in some situations, and I'm sure that scientists could use the technology for amazing innovations. But before we go any further with it, we need to ensure that the creation of any new life forms can be monitored and regulated. We must consider the possible repercussions of this technology, and take steps to avoid any potential disasters, before we allow it to be widely used.

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE Senior News Editor

Grand theft transit

Guys jack Calgary Bus for joyride. I'd rather Steal a Ferrari

> ALIX KEMP Just Visiting From San Andreas



BP CONSIDERS ITS OPTIONS

letters TO THE eds

Bigotted against bigots

RE: (Religious right's sex ed policy is childish, May 20)

Reading this letter — as well as the article it was about — was quite the interesting experience for me. You know, I thought Canadians had the right to speak freely and practice their religion. But apparently, according the authors of both the letter and the article, apparently all one has to do to be deemed a backward, hateful bigot is to disagree with the mainstream and insist that their preferences for educating their children are respected.

You know, I can see the issue with protest when it comes to, say, educating pre-teens about STIs. But educating third graders with respect to personal beliefs about homosexuality? That really should be left to parents, because teaching that homosexuality is normal and healthy is not, in fact, a health issue, but an issue of personal and social beliefs. Parents should be able to control how these issues are approached in order to suit their belief system.

But really, the most shocking part of their opinions is their attitude towards Christians. Last time I checked, disagreeing with someone is not the same thing as hating them, and certainly that a person would publicly, and with much hostility, defame Christians — for example, by calling them all hateful bigots who

poison society, simply for disagreeing with them — is ironic at best. It would seem that I, as a Christian, can't disagree publicly with anyone, but everyone else can say whatever they want about me. Talk about a double standard. In truth, most Christians I know think homosexuality is wrong — but think gay people are people just like anyone else. If that's bigotry, well then I guess everyone's a bigot, aren't they?

The fact remains, and probably always will remain, that several religions teach against homosexuality. Believing homosexuality is wrong is not the same thing as hating, or even disrespecting, gay people. Gay people will just have to learn to live with the fact that not everyone will support them on this one, just as everyone has had to learn to live with people who disagree with them.

SHIELA KWASEK Arts IV



Cut lines no great loss

RE: (Don't cut phone lines to cut costs, May 20)

It's 2010. Most correspondence, I guarantee even among faculty, is done by e-mail. Maybe they can get service through Skype at a much better rate than what they pay now. A lot of faculty/staff mostly use their office phones to call colleagues within the university or else

to call home to their wife and kids, so believe me it is not the big loss you suggest.

> "JM" Via Internet

Gun registry actually causes crime

RE: (Gun registry should be shot down, May 20)

Licensing and the gun registry actually put more guns on the street. A full two-thirds of the firearms in this country are not registered. Millions of firearm owners have also simply said "no" to licensing in order to possess their own previously legally-obtained property. Someone owning an unregistered firearm that is stolen will likely just suck up the loss and not incriminate him or herself by reporting the theft.

As long as the simple possession of an otherwise legally obtained firearm and not having it registered on some government shopping list is a crime, don't expect people to turn themselves in by reporting the theft. Why would they want to open themselves up to financially crippling court costs, job loss, and prison? Under these conditions, for most it's a no brainer. They just shut up, suck up the loss, and go on with their lives. Under the old FAC system that made no legal owner a criminal, which worked much better, stolen firearms would be reported immediately, be recorded in the CPIC system, and be in effect registered as stolen. The owner could then collect his insurance for the loss, and the police would know it was "out there."
The current system promotes crime

"DOUG THE CANUCK"
Via Internet

ROSS VINCENT

Kudos to smart scientists

by criminalizing the theft victim.

RE: (Breakthough U of A study finds potential cancer drug, May 20)

My son — now a healthy 23 year old — was diagnosed with cancer way back in 1992. The U of A was connected with other teaching hospitals, and his treatment changed as new finds came along — some within first weeks of his treatment.

Keep up the good work. Thank you for the sleepless nights!

"NICK" Via Internet

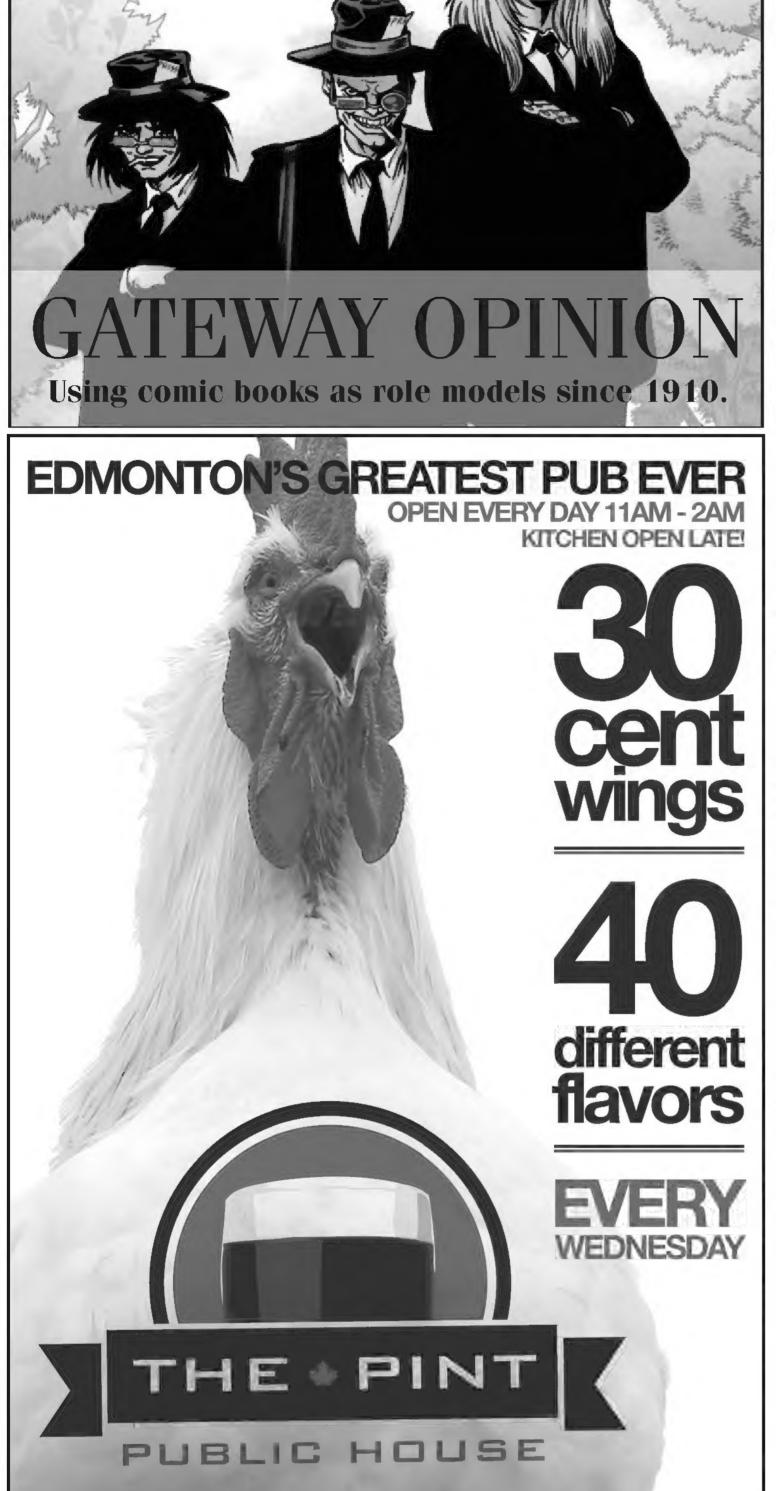
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OPINION thursday, june 3, 2010 • www.thegatewayonline.ca

CIVIERO



JOURNALISM.

Katz arena plan a public menace CODY idea—and it's obviously not—private If anyone wanted to build a new



had hoped that I'd never feel compelled to write about Edmonton's arena debate. I hoped that public outrage or a rare moment of clarity from our politicians would make it go away, and that the subject wouldn't

need any more ink or consideration.

In its current incarnation, the proposal is self-evidently ludicrous enough to be beneath comment. But as the Katz Group has filed a re-zoning application to make 16 acres of downtown into an "arena and entertainment district," with the outcome decided on June 28, it's clear that such hopes are in vain, and more obviously needs to be said.

It's impossible to critique the arena funding model with complete accuracy, because the Katz Group has yet to provide one. In fact, their entire campaign has been heavy on buzzwords and ambiguity while providing barely any tangible details. But a few things are perfectly clear: they want the public to pay for the arena in its entirety, and they are being disingenuous, opaque, and evasive. Take, for example, the bait-and-switch offer of \$100 million Daryl Katz originally said he'd put into the arena before slyly insisting that he meant the money would go into the surrounding development.

It shouldn't be the job of the public sector to create a building to house a private organization as its primary tenant. If this development was a good

idea — and it's obviously not — private investors would be lining up to foot the bill. But even the moderately offensive idea of the public putting up money for this has nothing on the travesty thus far proposed by the Katz group.

While it's hard to pin down the details, thanks to Katz's refusal to unveil any specifics, they seem to want the Oilers to play in the new arena practically rent-free, while keeping all the revenue from all other acts. They want complete control over the project, employing their own architect and design specs, and building on their own schedule. Further, they hope to demolish Rexall Place so they won't have a competing venue. All of the profits and power would go the Katz Group, while all of the costs and risks would fall on the public.

The public would get nothing in return for this massive investment with a publicly funded arena, the city wouldn't be able to collect property taxes from the arena. There's also the added bonus of traffic congestion, and more issues for our police to deal with downtown. It adds up to benefits for the richest segment of society - Katz, his cronies, season-ticket holders, and downtown property owners — at the expense of everyone else. This is hucksterism that can't be laughed off with references to the comparative pocket change Katz has thrown into philanthropic pursuits around the city.

Supporters of the plot argue that private funding isn't feasible. But if Katz were truly an entrepreneur, visionary, or captain of industry, he'd be able to make this happen without our help. Arenas in Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal were all financed largely with private dollars.

If anyone wanted to build a new arena with private money, they'd have the blessing of the majority of people disgusted with Katz's scheme. But even then, Edmonton doesn't need one. Rexall is only 1,300 seats smaller than its proposed replacement, and is successful in its current state, as the 12th-busiest concert venue in the world.

New arenas don't generate significant economic benefits to cities, according to the University of Alberta's own Brad Humphreys, an economist who has studied the impact of sports stadiums on local economies. And the most heavily subsidized stadium in the continent — Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium — is already in the red and being bailed out by taxpayers less than two years after they put forward hundreds of millions of dollars to build it.

This isn't a vision for our city, it's a hostage-taking. It's corporate welfare where profits are privatized and losses are socialized. Take the worst aspects of capitalism and socialism, and you end up with one slime-coated package that should enrage decent people of all political stripes.

But the project will likely come to fruition, as our aggressively incompetent mayor is serving as a cheerleader while drooling at the prospect of rubber-stamping a legacy project. He even assembled a committee, laughably consisting of business leaders and Oilers representatives, to recommend the project two years ago.

This is shameful, and elected officials backing it deserve to lose their jobs based on this issue alone. If our city refuses to speak up and let them know that there will be consequences, a select few will profit off of the debt of generations of Edmontonians.

Facebook privacy is just common sense



BRUCE CINNAMON "Nobody seems to employ the simplest and most effective means of privacy control on the Internet: if you don't want people to know intimate details about you, don't publish them to the fatest growing collection of stalkers, identity thieves, and creeps on the web."

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The Gateway celebrates its official centennial anniversary on November 20, 2010 at the Chateau Lacombe in Downtown Edmonton. Watch for more information in future issues of the Gateway, or contact the GAA.



A part of our heritage since 1910

acebook: the very word evokes memories of organizing imaginary farm animals and wasting hours in banal conversation with casual acquaintances. But while we fritter away our time finding out what colour our souls are and creeping on attractive friends-of-friends, we may be putting ourselves in harm's way — and not just from the damaging psychological effects of this widespread addiction.

Recently, Facebook updated its privacy settings. The changes essentially made all profile information open by default; users would have to manually reset a series of complex settings to limit access to information they didn't want publicly known. This, as you might imagine, made a lot of people angry.

The fury directed towards Facebook executives caused them to hastily restore simpler privacy controls in an attempt to make it more accessible and user-friendly. But the damage was done, and now consumer activists are encouraging further action against the company. From those who say that the privacy controls are still too extensive and bamboozling, to those who think they are simply inadequate, everyone is crying for reform.

Yet nobody seems to employ the simplest and most effective means of privacy control on the Internet: if you don't want people to know intimate details about you, don't publish them to

the fastest growing collection of stalkers, identity thieves, and creeps on the web. This is why the continuing drama around the hotly debated Facebook privacy policy is absurd. Yes, Facebook should know better than to create thick and inscrutable settings that will alienate and upset many users. But the root of the problem is users' willingness to post personal information on the web.

As a private corporation, Facebook has the right to dictate the terms of its relationship to customers. As consumers, we have signed a contract agreeing to release a great volume of personal information to Facebook. Though consumer advocates complain that such contracts are too long and nebulous, it's still the user's decision to accept or decline the terms. Even if the company alters the contract, it can do nothing to harm the user beyond revealing information they have already posted in a largely public venue.

Facebook exists primarily to sell its audience to advertisers — it doesn't owe the public anything. Its only interest in its customers is to ensure their continued visitation to the site, so they can profit from advertising revenues. This means that it will do nothing unless dissatisfied customers actually stop logging onto their Facebook accounts. So if consumers don't feel comfortable with the protection that Facebook is offering, it's their responsibility to take their business elsewhere.

Certain users have done just that. More than 24,000 people committed to attend "Quit Facebook Day" on May 31, but the event was a flop. The ubiquitous Facebook has no rival to abandon it is to abandon the social networks so many of us rely on. But even if these movements are doomed to failure, they are sensible reactions to the problem. They are compatible with users' complaints, unlike those others who ceaselessly moan while still spending hours on Facebook, posting more personal information and wasting hours on applications that mine even more of their data.

It's the responsibility of each user to determine what information they share. As politicians have repeatedly demonstrated, there's no better way to have something come back and bite you in the ass than publishing it online.

The sustained outrage against Facebook is just another attempt by people to pin responsibility on someone else for their own lack of judgment. If they are serious about their dissatisfaction, they should end their relationship with the company. If not, they must accept that nothing they post will be completely private, which is something every Internet user should know already. In short: stop bitching about privacy concerns while you post revealing pictures of yourself and continue to support the company that has supposedly wronged you.

OPINION THE GATEWAY • volume CI summer issue 3

Oil spill prompts industry introspection



KRISTEN PUE

ollowing a major disaster, after the immediate shock has worn down and before we inevitably seep back into our natural state of recklessness, we look for a way to prevent future mishaps. Aware of weak fiscal legislation, the economic meltdown prompted harsher banking regulations. After one too many invasions, the Chinese built a really big wall to keep the Mongols out. And in response to the twice-prorogued Parliament, Canadians decided that we're content without a functioning government, so long as the Olympics are in town. Well, you get the idea.

The BP oil spill, which has now been officially recognized as the biggest environmental disaster in US history, and possibly one of the worst man-made disasters of all time, has already begun to spark these selfreflective questions. Should offshore drilling be allowed? To what extent should the government play an active role in oversight? Dude, what will happen if I shoot a whole bunch of old tires and golf balls into a leaking drill pipe?

Back in 2008, former President George W. Bush rescinded a 27-yearold ban on offshore drilling. It wasn't exactly an unprecedented move, since oil companies were already engaged in offshore extraction projects on the other five populated continents. This type of drilling has become common to the point of banality, which is disconcerting given how little we appear to know about curbing oil spills.

There is strong evidence suggesting that BP repeatedly prioritized profit over precaution. Weeks before the explosion occurred, the Blowout Preventer (BOP), a vital safety piece used to seal the well shut on the ocean floor, was damaged. Chunks of rubber were discovered in the drilling fluid, evidence of the damage, but were dismissed by supervisors as "not a big deal." As a result, the broken BOP could not serve its function in preventing a rupture, contributing to the disaster. Clearly, BP made several bad decisions leading up to the spill.

To this point, the Deepwater rig has cost BP roughly \$1 billion in failed attempts to seal the well. Although BP made \$6 billion in profit in the first quarter of this year, their revenue can't make up for the \$67 billion they've lost to bailing investors — nearly a third of their market share. The Deepwater incident has put BP at risk for takeover. As satisfying as their financial woes and potential bankruptcy might be, we rely upon BP for much of the globe's oil market. The collapse of BP would be disastrous. Besides, a bankrupt BP would bear no responsibility for quelling the Gulf spill, nor would any company that might buy BP's assets. Essentially, we'd just see the same practices under a different company name, but with potentially less otterscrubbing. The US government would have to absorb the cleanup costs, which it can't afford to do considering their already-ballooning deficit.

As much as BP is to blame for its own actions, the lack of government oversight is equally disturbing. As offshore drilling projects are set to increase in number, the Deepwater Horizon spill stands as a stark reminder that enforcing safety regulations is integral. It's also essential that our attitudes change; in an industry where failure holds such dire consequences, we cannot afford to think of safety retroactively.



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Moral outrage is no excuse for censorship



DAWSON

Defining cultural characteristics like ethnicity, origin, and creed are all protected under Canadian human rights legislation. Similarly, religion is an important cultural component. The Anglican Church is a key cultural institution in England, as is Hinduism in India. Canada, as a multicultural nation, is populated by diverse religious groupings. However, religion, should not be grounds for a limitation of free speech.

The value in an event like Everybody Draw Muhammad Day is that it demonstrates how religious groups can come into conflict with foundational Canadian values like freedom of expression and criticism of social institutions. No matter how offensive the simple act of drawing any representation of the Prophet — whether flattering or insulting — may be to some, we must be allowed to do so. Complimentary speech needs no protection from the constitution; it is the right to speech that offends that must be defended by every Canadian.

You know what they say about the road that's paved with good intentions. This is particularly true in the case of censorship. Initially, limitations upon free speech were put in place to protect people from discrimination and violence. However, we now see special commissions bringing journalists and intellectu-

nize the acceptability of their work. Limitations on speech are in danger of overstepping their legitimate boundaries.

Government suits are eliminating legitimate criticism of religious authority, institutions, and beliefs that are contrary to the values of a liberal democratic nation. The road towards censorship is draped in the guise of protecting multiculturalism, protecting the vulnerable, and ensuring that we can all co-exist harmoniously. However, there's nothing desirable about a society in which ideas cannot be exchanged fully, particularly with freedom from government prosecution. We must be critical of those ideas that are indeed dangerous, but we must always remember to confront these people, and not run to the government to protect our intellectual sensibilities.

To censor debate about an important cultural issue such a religion, simply because it's controversial or uncomfortable, is the worst form of cowardice.

Everybody Draw Muhammad Day reminds us of very important values; it's necessary to occasionally exercise our right to controversial free speech, if only to ensure that right remains intact. We shouldn't allow religious groups or well-intentioned worrywarts to limit our freedom to do so.

"Everybody Draw Muhammad Day" is rude, but so is censoring free speech constitutional grey area. als before their tribunals to scruti-**TYLER**



Islamist extremist group prompted Comedy Central to censor the show's depiction of the Muslim prophet Muhammad. The made-up holiday incited controversy, because Muslims believe that it's prohibited to create any image of Muhammad. This has sparked debate about the extent that religion be criticized and raised questions regarding what limits can be placed on our democratic right to free

In Canada, the Criminal Code and Human Rights Act are designed to protect visible minorities from hate speech. This means that literature or speech inciting "hatred or contempt" towards a particular group, or advocating genocide, is illegal. Such laws prevent white supremacists from writing tomes that encourage violence against racial minorities. However, harsh criticism of religion falls into a

speech.

SACK SACK

It's 7 a.m. Your alarm shrieks, then is immediately silenced by your fist. You hit the snooze button. Twice. You finally fall out of bed, drag yourself off the ground and stumble to the shower. Suddenly, you're facing a decision that has the potential to change your entire day: do you eat a healthy and nutritious breakfast, or do you spend that time doing your hair? Well, no one will know if you

don't eat breakfast, and it only takes two minutes to buy a latté on campus. Wait one second here — a latté?

A latté is a drink. That's not breakfast. Breakfast is literally defined as breaking the overnight fasting of sleep. It's the most important meal of the day and

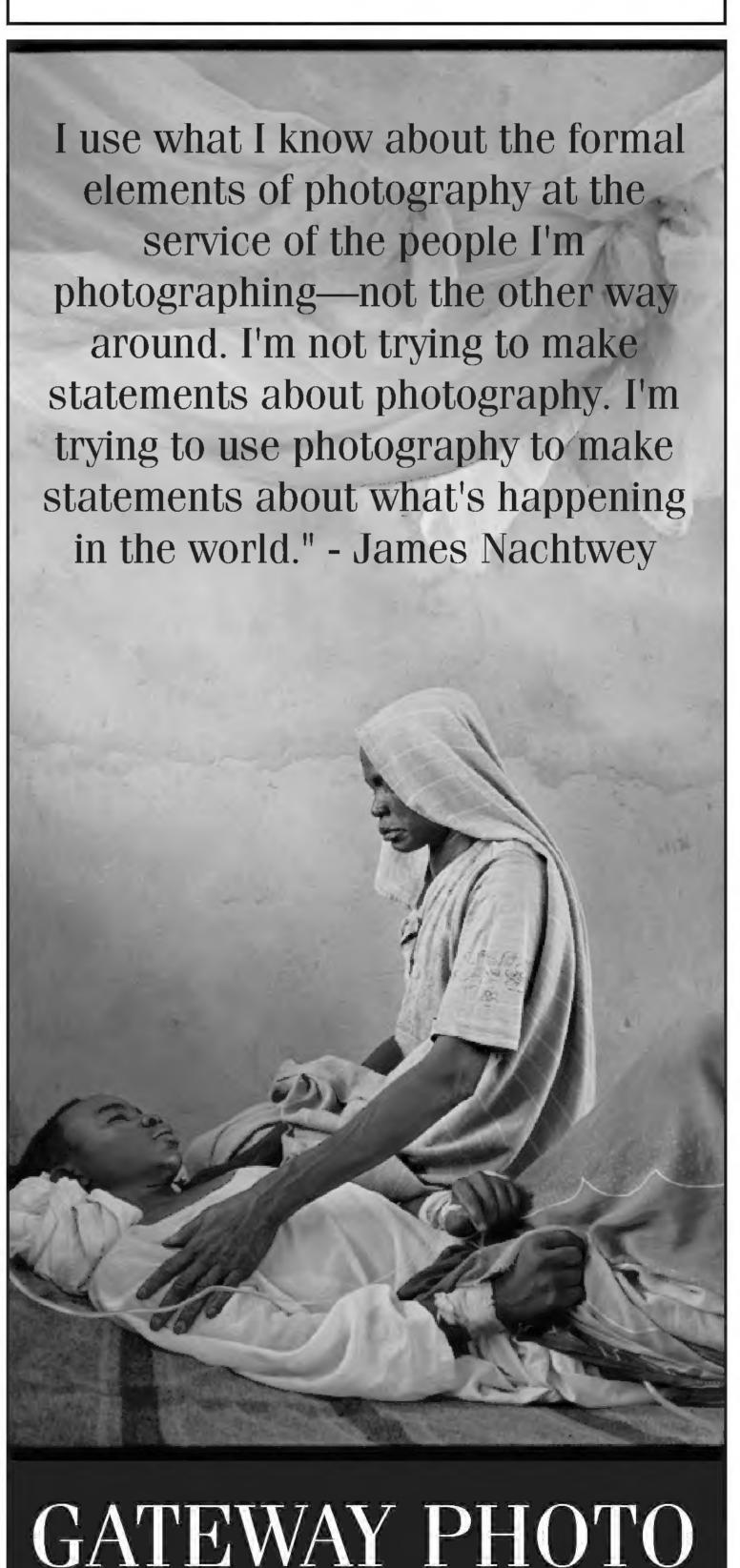
kick-starts your metabolism like a gunshot in a race. Skipping breakfast can actually lead to obesity. Sorry to be the one to burst your frothy bubble, but a latté has roughly the nutritional value of a Coffee Crisp — and I certainly wouldn't call that breakfast.

And I haven't even factored in cost. If you purchase a latte every day of the week, it would cost you approximately \$80 a month. That's \$1,000 a year that you have nothing to show for, except that 11 a.m. case of the jitters.

So if you think that when the clock hits 8 a.m., it's time to visit the barista, don't be a dumbass. Eat a real breakfast, or it's off to the burlap sack with you.

CHRISTINA WOLKINSKI

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.



Making statements since 1910.

FEATURE thursday, june 3, 2010 • www.thegatewayonline.ca

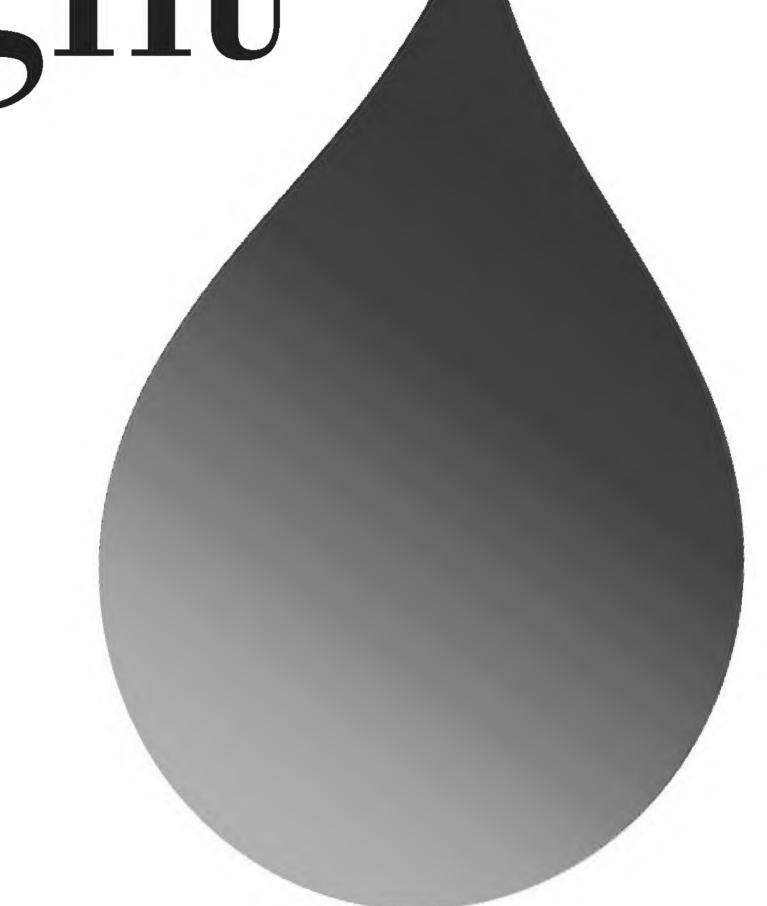
Adecade of Adrought

Written by Justin Bell and Simon Yackulic Illustrations by Lance Mudryk

THE RAIN CAME DOWN for three straight days, a seemingly unusual occurrence for Edmonton. For a city that's been mired in drought, the rain has been a godsend. Across the province, it's been the same story, with rain falling through the early spring bringing upbeat spirits.

But the last 10 years haven't been quite as rosy. The province has been suffering drought-like conditions intermittently for the past 10 years. Cattle producers, farmers, and firefighters have all been struggling without the much needed rains.

Capping it all off was the 2008 and 2009 seasons, two of the worst on record for precipitation throughout the central part of the province. Edmonton has been the hardest hit city among the province.



Farmers cope with lack of rain

Mayerthorpe-area farmer Jody Klassen, a canola, wheat, and pea farmer, has noticed the drop in precipitation over the last decade. In the industry himself for 25 years, he's not overly optimistic of the prospects this year.

"There's enough moisture right now for grain crops, but we'll need continued moisture throughout the growing season," said Klassen. "We're still quite dry. We do everything that we can to still turn a profit — but ultimately, we're really at the mercy of Mother Nature when it comes to water."

It's a difficult position Klassen finds himself in. While the rain falls this year, it may not be enough to yield a successful harvest.

Alberta as a whole, and the Edmonton-area specifically, have been suffering through some of the worst drought conditions of the last century. While any one individual year may not be the worst on record, precipitation levels have been down across the board.

Environment Canada tracks weather patterns and precipitation levels at weather stations across the country. As senior climatologist David Phillips explains, the numbers paint a somewhatterrifying picture of how the Edmonton region has fared over the past decade.

"Every year in the last 10 years has been drier than what the normal would be," said Phillips. "If you look at the last two years, the total precipitation in Edmonton represents about 62 per cent of what you would [normally] get."

Other metrics for the region show how bad things have become in the past decade. In the 33 months up until the end of March, only four had greater-than-average precipitation.

And while precipitation has dropped off, the temperature has risen. There were 49 days in the last decade with a temperature above 30C; the norm would have been 23. The hotter-than-average temperatures are sucking moisture out of the soil and into the atmosphere.

The dust bowl of the '30s is often a measur-

ing stick against which dry spells are compared. And while the summers were hot and dry, there was heavy snowfall in the winter that recharged water levels. That hasn't been the case for the last decade — the last 10 years have been 20 per cent drier than the '30s.

"The drought of the last 10 years has been

continuation of the cow herd sell-off," said Hays. "When the calf prices are dismal — and they're dismal because feed lot returns are bad — the push back is that a number of cow-calf producers are getting out of the business."

The problem for cattle farmers is the cost of bringing in feed. If rains remained at normal

"There's enough moisture right now for grain crops, but we'll need continued moisture throughout the growing season. We're still quite dry. We do everything that we can to still turn a profit — but ultimately, we're really at the mercy of Mother Nature when it comes to water."

-Jody Klassen Mayerthorpe Farmer

a year-round drought. It's not just a growing season drought — it's a full-year drought," said Phillips.

Cattle industry struggling to cope

That drought has hit the cattle industry the hardest, one of Alberta's traditionally strong industries. Alberta producers are responsible for 50 per cent of the beef in Canada, while half of the beef produced in the province is exported; nearly 90 per cent of that goes to the United States.

While grain and cereal farmers can irrigate or bring in water, many cattle farmers are on the verge of collapse due to the lack of precipitation. Fred Hays, a policy analyst with the Alberta Beef Producers, said as much as half of the 25,000 cow-calf producers in Alberta are in dismal shape.

"If we get a year like last year [...] it would be a

levels, grazing land would flourish and be harvested for the winter, keeping a store of cheap feed to sustain herds through colder months.

But in two years, most cattle farmers haven't been able to put any feed away for their cattle over the winter. More and more, they are resorting to buying feed and using different formulas. Hays said producers are starting to put straw in the rations.

Dugouts and sloughs are also empty, which act as important water sources for Alberta's cattle herd. Hay's farm is west of Airdrie, where some of the heaviest rains this year have fallen, and even his dugouts are below where they normally would be.

"In some parts, the dugouts are just not filling up and the pastures are not coming up. It's dry from last year and the year before. The subsoil moisture level is down."

Without a significant change in fortunes,

the industry in the province could continue to shrink. According to Statistics Canada, the number of cattle in the province has shrunk by nearly 600,000 between July of last year and the beginning of January.

Hays says that number could continue to drop if things don't turn around quickly. He said 70 per cent of the herd in Alberta are in drought-stricken areas and are "in terrible shape."

Genetic crops to the rescue

Traditional farming operations, such as grain or cereal crop farmers, haven't fared quite as poorly as the cattle industry. Rod Scarlet, the executive director for Wild Rose Agricultural Producers, a farming lobby group, said advances in technology has insulated them from some droughts.

Genetically-altered, drought-resistant crops, as well as advances in farming practices, have meant there won't be a repeat of the dirty '30s.

But the changes in precipitation levels have forced more farmers to start specializing their operations, moving away from the piecemeal farming of the past that consisted of a few cows, some grains, and a handful of hogs.

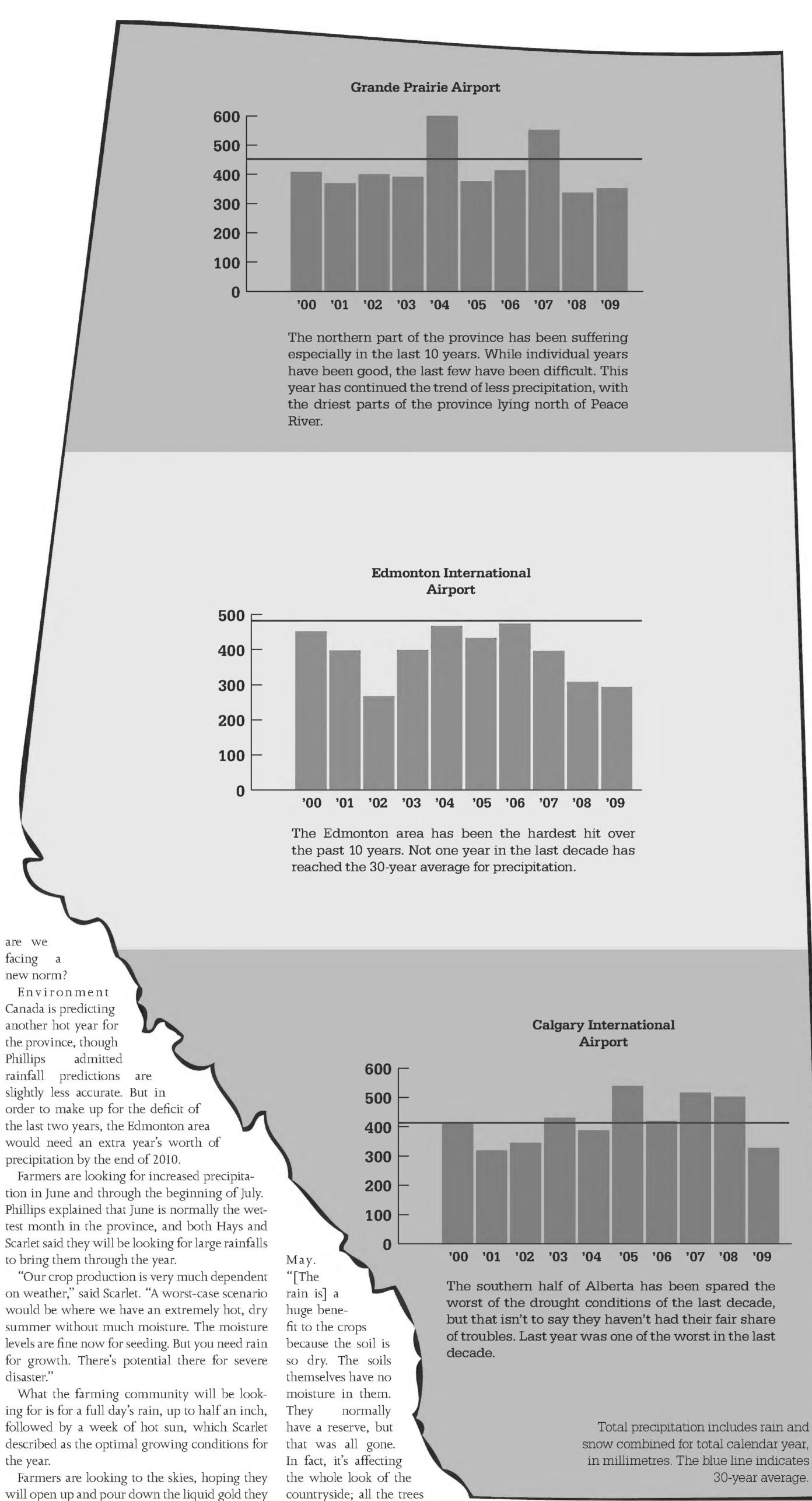
"I think what there is, is more of a reality that it is a business now," said Scarlet. "There are some things that are out of the individual farmer's control."

In order to compete, Scarlet explained that more small farmers are getting their farms certified organic or moving towards larger-scale operations. He said many cattle farmers are also getting out.

Forest fires on the rise

Long-term drought conditions are also causing problems for Alberta's forestry industry. Forest fires in the province have been on the rise since the rains started decreasing. Part of the increase is due to a change in reporting procedures implemented in Alberta — small, unattended campfires were previously unreported, but were

FEATURE



included to adhere with the standards of other provinces.

But the numbers have jumped since the beginning of the decade more dramatically than a simple change in policies could explain. In 2000, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development recorded 783 fires; that number rose to 1,710 last year.

The numbers for 2010 are already up as well. As of press time, a total of 712 fires had been reported in the province — to date, the five-year average would be 578.

Firefighters who have been on the frontlines have also noticed the gradual drying of the province's forests and experienced the effects it's had on trying to battle out-of-control blazes. Steve Duncan has been fighting forest fires for three years as a helitack crew leader, a group of firefighters who jump into fires using helicopters.

"Right now, it's a hot, dry year," said Duncan. "We've seen fires burning that burn on the ground and take longer to work on because they just keep on burning and are tough to put out. It's shaping up to be a busy year."

Patrick O'Callaghan, a helitack crew member stationed in Bragg Creek in southern Alberta, echoed Duncan's concerns. Dry conditions make it harder for them to do their jobs, as it takes more effort to keep the parched brush from re-igniting.

"The type of fire we had, it was burning quite deep. The stumps of trees were still burning, so we had to dig out all the roots, and that gets kind of tedious and a bit difficult. You're spending a lot of time and dropping a lot of water on an area that's maybe not too big, but all that water has to seep into the ground and get absorbed in order to put everything out."

The road ahead

With all the difficulties in the province over the last 10 years caused by the lack of moisture, the looming question is how things will shape up in the future. Will historical precipitation return, or will open up and pour down the liquid gold they need to stay in the business.

Robin Chandler has been working the land just north of Camrose for 13 years. He reminisces about better times, when more bountiful precipitation made caring for the land slightly easier.

"We haven't had rain like that for 10 years," said Chandler after a huge downpour at the end of

He remains optimistic that things will turn around.

are drying. So hopefully the

rain will save some of those."

He looks to his fields, in hopes that the June rains come and start to break the cycle of drought in the province.

"It's affected [our business] quite a bit because

we haven't made any money. We've been producing poor crops," Chandler said. "We're just hoping the drought's broken and everything's going to be good."

Chandler isn't alone — the entire farming community is praying for rain.

A&E

New Pornographers' Newman building on old success

musicpreview

The New Pornographers

With The Mountain Goats
Tuesday, June 8 at 7 p.m.
Edmonton Event Centre
(8882–170 St.)
\$27.50 at Ticketmaster

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hitting the very top of the charts may be a goal for some bands, but for the New Pornographers, even achieving a personal best is enough to get them excited. Their latest album, *Together*— their first release since 2007— has managed to chart higher on the Billboard Top 200 than any of their previous four albums.

"Yeah, we got to 18 in America, which was pretty surreal." says A.C. Newman, one of the lead singers for the Vancouver supergroup. "It's one of those things where you think 'is that the same chart I'm thinking of? Did we actually go top-20 on that chart that I used to look at when I was a kid?"

Since starting the band in 1997, the New Pornographers have grown into one of Canada's première independent bands. Despite the indie facade, a steadily increasing fan base — and the band's inclusion in the popular video game *Rock Band* — has allowed them to continue to perform together for more than a decade. Newman admits that the success the band has enjoyed exceeded the expectations he had when they were



where I'd even thought about success—seriously—mana

just starting out.

"I think the kind of success I was striving for was that of Guided By Voices or Yellow Tango," he says. "I never thought that I was going to be a pop star, or that I'm going to put out records that would hit the charts. I just thought I want to be in a popular indie rock band."

But for so many up-and-coming bands, it's failure — not success — they most relate to. When songwriting, Newman draws on inspiration from the music of bands that, for the most part, time has forgotten. However, it's this failure to reach the public ear that can engender a more

"It's strange that it's become my day job."

A.C. NEWMANLEAD SINGER, NEW PORNOGRAPHERS

sympathetic sound.

"You can relate to [failure]. The whole idea of being in a band and just doing it for the 'love,' but getting nothing back [...] When this band started, I had absolutely no delusions that we were going to do anything," Newman admits.

"So I had gotten past the point

where I'd even thought about success or failure. I just thought we'll make a record and that will be the end of it. Then I'll go and do something else, because that's how life works: you make records, then you have to take care of the real things in life.

"It's strange that it's become my day job," he adds.

It's a job that keeps Newman busy, organizing the The New Pornographers' eight members, which includes many artists that are established in the music industry in their own right — most notably Neko Case and Dan Bejar.

Newman also takes his work quite

seriously, managing the band and doing a majority of the administrative jobs himself up until recently. He boasts that the New Pornographers have never had to sign a publishing deal, and that they retain the rights to all of their own songs. Their steady path towards fame has been a rewarding one for Newman, and one that he doesn't regret taking.

"It's the only place we ever could've come from. I like the freedom of it. I'd be really bummed out if I had a major label breathing down my throat, saying, 'you got to be more commercial. Why can't you sound more like Kings of Leon?'"

Repetitive Wake puts its players to sleep

gamereview

Alan Wake

Developed by Remedy Entertainment Published by Microsoft Game Studios Now available for Xbox 360

EVAN MUDRYK
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Just as Henry Winkler could fix a jukebox by giving it a firm slap in the classic television show *Happy Days*, anyone playing *Alan Wake* possesses the same ability — except all they have to do is press the A button to trigger the Fonzie impression. The often-stunning graphics and elaborately decorated environments of *Alan Wake* disguise what would otherwise be straightforward and repetitive gameplay. And good luck making heads or tails of the story.

Alan Wake puts the player in the role of the eponymous hero, famous mystery novelist Alan Wake, the game world's answer to Stephen King and strangely a fairly prominent celebrity. This despite the fact that he's just a novelist and his name isn't J.K. Rowling or Stephenie Meyer. He and his wife Alice are on vacation in the ironically-named Bright Falls, which remains draped in shadows for the most part, as Wake is forced to battle through waves upon waves of mysterious and unexplained supernatural miscreants after his wife is kidnapped. Or maybe she wasn't kidnapped after all; honestly I don't know.

Even after seeing the game through the very end, it's hard to decide what to report from it, given the labyrinthine plot.

Story aside, Wake plays on the old video game motif of light versus darkness. Wake is continually harassed by shadowy doppelgängers of the residents of Bright Falls, known as the Taken. To defeat his foes, Wake must flash light — through a variety of methods which make up the core of the game's experience — on his opponents until their darkness meters are emptied. From there, all he needs to do is shoot the hell out of them. It's a simple concept that becomes even simpler when you realize that halfway through the game, you've encountered pretty much every kind of enemy.

When you're not fighting demons, you're collecting pages from the prophetic novel Departure, apparently penned by Wake, who doesn't remember writing it and can't explain why the pages litter Bright Falls. Together, these pages become premonitions of what will eventually take place later on in the game, sometimes offering hints on how to handle upcoming situations or puzzles, or previewing upcoming moments from the game's plot. Since every puzzle becomes a quest to find the only thing in the environment that the player can still interact with and press the A button to activate it, Alan Wake is a tad dull at times. The combat is typically enjoyable, however, even though the variety isn't always there.

The story is allegedly the game's

biggest selling point, but mediocre writing and mostly-terrible voice acting keeps Wake from exceeding in this regard either. Remember how David Lynch's popular TV show Twin Peaks was relevant when it came out in the '90s? While that kind of bullshit nonsense was inventive for its time, Wake's ambiguous storytelling feels more like a crutch than an asset. The game is littered with references to The Twilight Zone, Alfred Hitchcock, and more than a few Stephen King novels. But trying to scare audiences the same way they've already been scared seems counterintuitive for a game that's supposedly trying to offer some kind of novel shock value.

Wake suffers from being a psychological horror game with too few tricks in its bag. After more than five years in development, it's clear that certain areas of the game had to be scaled back and player's expectations should be equally reserved. Even though the sweeping landscapes and technically strong graphics make Wake look like it was worth the wait, the game is, unfortunately, heavy in style but lacking in substance.

Coming from Remedy, the makers of Max Payne, Alan Wake exhibits flashes of brilliance at times, but it does so too sporadically and with little discretion for coherent storytelling. For a game that's so obsessed with writing, it appears the creators were content with just cobbling together whatever horror clichés they could find, creating a muddled experience that ultimately leaves gamers in the dark.



Hollywood's future looking white

Colour blind casting unfairly overlooks minority actors for blockbuster films



ike many Canadians, I was raised on a healthy diet of American television. Some of my childhood favourites include Full House, Family Matters, and The Simpsons. However, as a kid, I never realized three things: Michelle Tanner was white, Steve Urkel was black, and the people of Springfield had severe jaundice. I also never fully appreciated the diversity of the Planeteers from Captain Planet — "You can be one too!" — until more recently. But why should the race of American TV characters or actors matter; isn't that insignificant compared to story and talent?

Well, the simple answer is that it shouldn't matter. But by looking at the microcosm of images from American media that continue to flood Canadian screens — both big and small — it becomes apparent it still does hold a major stake in what we watch. I'm of course referring to the glass ceilings and invisible barriers that prevent talented minorities from advancing in the entertainment industry due to institutional discrimination, demonstrated most recently in two of Hollywood's biggest film adaptations of the summer — The Prince of Persia and The Last Airbender.

It's bad enough that these walls still exist, limiting actors' potential by typecasting certain groups almost exclusively in stereotypical roles: African-Americans as jive-talking gangsters (or transforming robots, as is sometimes the case), people of Middle-Eastern descent as foaming-at-the-mouth terrorists, and First Nations people as the noble (or ignoble) savages. The list goes on from there, but anyone who has watched even a handful of American movies or television shows has experienced these outdated tropes in droves.

The success of shows and films like Lost, Heroes, and Star Trek are proof enough that viewers accept ethnic diversity in their favourite TV shows and films.

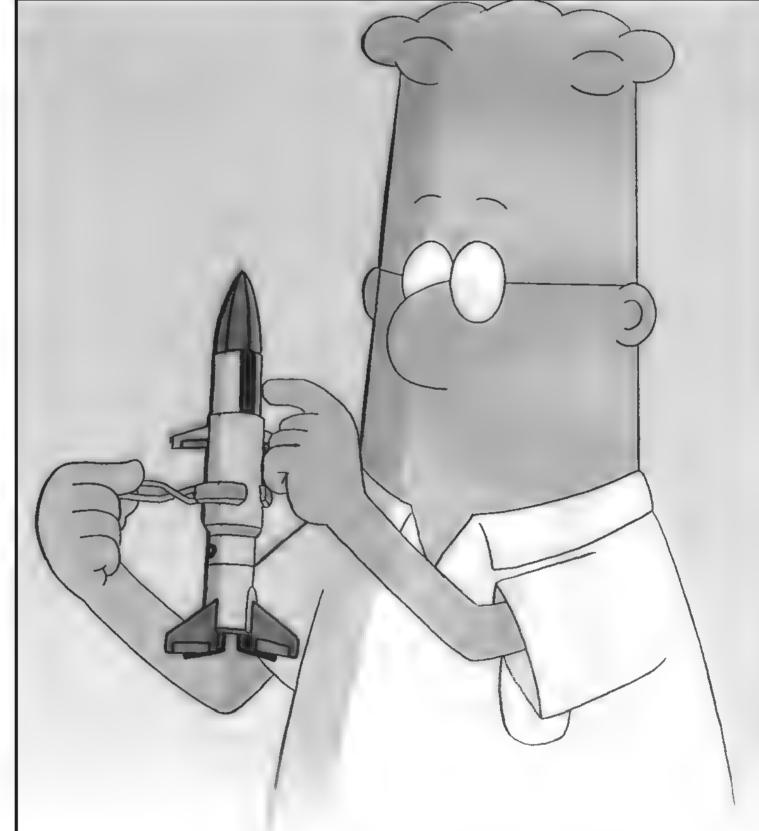
To make matters worse, even when a role isn't a blatant caricature, minority actors are still being passed up for white actors, even when the original character was ethnic. In most cases, this is defended as "colour blind" casting, which merely hopes to find the most suitable actor possible, regardless of ethnicity. To be fair, we do occasionally see people of colour playing roles originally depicted as Caucasian, such as Michael Clarke Duncan as Kingpin in Daredevil and Daniel Henney as Agent Zero in X-Men Origins: Wolverine. Though, unfortunately, the process is mostly in the other direction.

For every Samuel L. Jackson as Nick Fury, there's a Justin Chatwin as Goku, a Jake Gyllenhaal as the Prince of Persia, or a Mickey Rourke as Genghis Khan. Make no mistake — I hold nothing against these actors, their ability, or even white people in general. The point is that films such as 21 and The Last Airbender have replaced their casts of ethnic protagonists with supposedly more marketable Caucasian leads. This suggests a belief within the Hollywood system that minority actors don't possess the necessary money-grossing abilities to carry a feature film the same way a George Clooney might be able to. But this is simply not the case.

On the contrary, the success of shows and films like Lost, Heroes, and Star Trek are proof enough that viewers accept ethnic diversity in their favourite TV shows and films. Or have we merely become more "colour blind" than Hollywood gives us credit for? Audiences simply don't consider the lead actor's race a major factor on whether or not they will see a film, instead preferring to focus on whether a show has an intriguing plot or intuitive character development. If the film and actor are both of quality, then race becomes less significant. Will Smith is a prime example of this, as he remains one of the most bankable actors in Hollywood and has been for sometime.

While some people might think that the way our neighbours to the south cast their movies has nothing to do with us, the impact of American culture on Canada is undeniable. As a country that's proud of its diversity, Canadian moviegoers should continue to challenge this kind of miscasting, both with their words and their wallet. Hopefully that way, Hollywood will learn to see in hues other than green.

"Every vagina feels different." GATEWAY A&E Broadcasting flippant statements made by celebrities since 1910,



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THE GATEWAY

Trying to justify Arts degrees since 1910.

Amy Shostak aims to keep Improvaganza fresh for festival's 10-year anniversary

festivalpreview

Improvaganza

June 16-26 Varscona Theatre (10329-83 Ave) and Transalta Arts Barns (10330-84 Ave)

\$10–20 at tixonthesquare.ca or at Varscona or TransAlta Art Barns box offices

Schedule at rapidfiretheatre.com

ALIX KEMP
Opinion Editor

"If you come on one night, and you don't really like what you see, there's a chance that if you came tomorrow it would be 10 times better and totally different."

Even though it's the 10-year anniversary of Rapid Fire Theatre's Improvaganza, Artistic Director Amy Shostak knows that with improv, nothing ever happens quite same way twice. The festival's come a long way since its first years, growing from a small gathering of three or four improv groups, to this year's guest list which includes over 40 performers from North America and Europe. And as Shostak points out, improv itself is changing dramatically, and Improvaganza exists to challenge existing notions of the standard theatrical form.

"Improv can be anything," Shostak says. "It can be dramatic, it can be based

on a playwright, [and] it can be absolutely crazy." In other words, it's more than just *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*— a fact that becomes clear after taking a glance at the festival's roster.

This year's guests include the Los Angeles contingent of the Upright Citizens Brigade, a world-renowned comedy troupe known for such distinguished alumni as Tina Fey; Et Compagnie, a Francophone Improv group hailing from Lyon, France; and the festival's house band, a Winnipeg bluegrass ensemble called the Magnificent Sevens.

In addition to traditional improv, sketch comedy, and stand-up, the festival also includes a series of workshops from experienced improvisers that are open to the public. The widely diverse number of performances means the festival has something for everyone, including kids' shows on Saturday afternoons and evenings of music at the Commercial Hotel.

The recent expansion of the festival means a lot of new firsts for 2010's Improvaganza. This year, the festival is introducing a festival ensemble, in which single performers from various groups work together to create three new shows. This will include a rehearsed sketch show organized by Picnic Face, the Nova Scotia troupe famous for the "Powerthirst" YouTube videos. Also new this year is a French Improv jam with Et Compagnie and some of Rapid Fire's French-speaking improvisors.

"You can watch [improvised] shows in [another language] and still understand what's going on," Shostak points out. Although the show will be of special interest to Edmonton's Francophone community, the average festival-goer will also certainly enjoy it.

"It's just that you're not getting all the wordplay. You're [...] getting all the emotion and maybe the story points, and it's still entertaining," she adds.

Beyond just making for a good time, Shostak hopes that Improvaganza — Canada's largest improv festival — will encourage attendees to look beyond their assumptions about improvisation.

"Improv can be as good as scripted theatre," she asserts. "I've seen it be better than scripted theatre, and I've seen improv shows get standing ovations. So there's no reason why improv shouldn't be taken as seriously as a theatrical, scripted play."

Well, as long as nobody takes it too seriously; although other improve festivals have a heavy emphasis on workshops and theory, Improvaganza is content with being "an open, kind of free, fun festival." This, Shostak believes, is what makes Improvaganza different from other Canadian theatre festivals.

"It's an exciting festival because it's so youth-driven and [...] energetic," she says. "The face of improv being spontaneity makes the festival absolutely different every night. [...] The energy is crazy."

Dark themes line motherhood movie

filmreview

Mother and Child

Directed by Rodrigo García Starring Naomi Watts, Annette Bening, and Samuel L. Jackson Princess Theatre (1033/-82 Ave.) Opens Friday, June 4

ANDREA LUFT Arts & Entertainment Staff

Mother and Child is a dark story that touches on real issues that are all too easy to ignore in society: extramarital affairs, infertility, adoption, and racial issues. But this type of work isn't that unusual for Rodrigo Garcia, the director and writer of the film. Garcia has directed several episodes of HBO's dark comedy-drama Six Feet Under. Mother and Child stays in much the same vein — effectively mixing romance and comedy, making his message entirely palatable despite its sometimes weighty overtones.

At the young age of 14, Karen (Annette Bening) gave up her daughter Elizabeth for adoption. Now Karen is a temperamental, depressed women in her fifties, living with her ill mother. The audience watches as Karen struggles through life — unable to forget the daughter that she can never stop loving. Karen writes letters to the daughter she never knew, but can't bring herself to send them. Tragically, she holds much resentment towards other families, and appears so overwhelmed by her own unhappiness that she seems unable to enjoy any aspect of her life whatsoever. Similar to Karen is Elizabeth (Naomi Watts), a cut-throat lawyer and Karen's biological daughter. She's a seductress who seems inherently cold and incapable of compassion.

Juxtaposed with the stories of Karen and Elizabeth is that of Lucy (Kerry Washington), an infertile woman who wishes to adopt a child together with her husband of four years. Lucy's



life illustrates the other side of adoption. She doesn't have to suffer the loss or the pain of giving up a child, but instead feels the desire and yearns for a child of her own, even when she cannot conceive herself. Lucy's story provides a completeness to what would have otherwise been a harsh, onesided examination and caricature of the American adoption process.

Every character in this film has a purpose and a message to pass on to the audience, and they all play into the underlying themes that say mothers are inherently in a state of perennial longing over their children. The characters also seem to inherently need their mothers, too — though they may be more stubborn about admitting as much. In addition to being a film about family, Mother and Child portrays strong female characters, showing that women haven't changed or wavered in their beliefs throughout history, but have rather began to take more prominent roles in society, with powerful careers and unrestrained sex lives.

Mother and Child is definitely more reserved than your typical summer movie, but it should appeal to a broader audience because of the nature of its mature subject matter. This film is definitely worth seeing. Though it's not a heart-warming date movie, it will leave the audience thinking and give the viewers something to talk about.



albumreview

Crystal Castles

Crystal Castles (II) Last Gang Records

MATT HIRJI Sports Editor

Crystal Castles have developed a bad reputation since their self-titled CD dropped in 2008. The Toronto duo has been accused of plagiarism and an exaggerated sense of self-importance, after cancelling live performances for petty reasons. CC's reputation, however, has nothing to do with their innovative perspective towards electronic rock, and their sophomore album, Crystal Castles (II), sends this message clearly — despite their detractors, Ethan Kath and Alice Glass are electro-rock auteurs.

Crystal Castles (II) sees the duo exploring more styles, from shoegaze to pop-oriented stuff. As compared to their first album, which was rooted in the sampling of 8-bit sounds from Atari video games, their second full-length LP feels more cohesive and more listenable than their previous work. Where their self-titled debut was characterized by a jagged sonic landscape, it's apparent that Kath and Glass have matured some from their Atari, button-mashing days. While "Empathy" shows the group's understanding of R&B forms, the use of a Sigur Rós vocal track on "Year of Silence" illustrates Kath's penchant for integrating distinctive samples in the creation of harmonious electronic music.

While both eponymous albums for Crystal Castles are impressive, their second album is step forward for the band — out of their basements and trail-blazing a new path for their music, one misstep at a time.



albumreview

Final Flash

Homeless EMI

BRUCE CINNAMON Arts & Entertainment Staff

Made up of generally fast paced, guitar-heavy selections, the Final Flash's debut album is a well-balanced, if homogeneous, collection best described by its likeness to cereal — the first few bites are tasty, but then its monotone nature leaves one wanting something more substantial. Sure, it will satisfy your aural appetite, but its bland nature will not delight your musical palate.

Entitled Homeless, the record's selection of songs appropriately inspire a sense of confusion in the listener. Despite its strong, regular beats and occasional use of the sitar, most songs are low-key, melancholy affairs. The quintet bills itself as "psychedelic folk rock," though it's too mellow to fit any of these labels comfortably. The use of the sitar in particular brings an interesting Indian sound to the best song on the ablum, the awfully titled "The Black Flame in Me is a Red Flame in You." Unfortunately, nothing fresh or innovative can be found in any other song.

Although hailing from Quebec, the band has none of the folksy rhythms and idiomatic language we have come to expect of musicians from that province. Instead, the uninspired lyrics and unvarying sound recall a garage band from an affluent suburban community like Sherwood Park. Homeless is an album which can best be described as adequate, for it will satisfy, even if it

neither excites nor offends.



SPORTS

Bears and Pandas golf teams tee off for national glory



CYRIL BALIITBIT

Wedge Game The Bears and Pandas Golf Teams are hoping to hit it high and tight this week in Fredericton.

BY THE NUMBERS

Number of holes that will be played in the four-day tournament. The course measures 7050 and 6058 yards for the Bears and Pandas, respectively.

4

Number or years that long hitter Jennifer Mclean has been team captain for the Pandas Golf team. After graduation, Mclean will try to qualify to play on the professional tour.

Automatic exemptions for the 2010 Canadian Amateur Championship that are available for the individual winners of both the men's and women's tournament.

MATT HIRJI Sports Editor

The Golden Bears and Pandas golf teams are looking to grip it and rip it at the Canada Championship golf tournament this week in Fredericton.

The tournament, consisting of 20 men's and 10 women's teams representing universities from across the country, will feature many of the best amateur golfers in Canada. Success for the 10 UofA players the University of Alberta will depend on long hitting and a tireless commitment to consistency at the pressurized four-day tournament.

The tournament at Kingswood Park Golf Course is the ninth national championship that the University of Alberta will be taking part in since their inaugural season in 2001. This year, the Alberta contingent is characterized by a dichotomy between the Bears and Pandas teams. While the Panda's are looking to utilize their experience and long hitting, the Bears are a young team with a lot of uncertainty regarding how they will respond at a higher stakes match.

Last week, the however, golf Alberta teams had the opportunity to hone their skills against their provincial rivals the University of Calgary Dinos — at a Ryder Cup style tournament at Valley Ridge Golf Course to the replicate situapressure tions that both teams will face week this

Fredericton.

Despite the rivalry between the two teams, there is a lot of respect amongst the programs.

"The level of competition was really good. The Ryder Cup style format is really intense", University of Alberta golf general manager Robin Stewart said, speaking about the inter-provincial match against Calgary last weekend.

"You don't want to make a bad shot and leave your partner with a tough shot. It puts some pressure on your game when you are trying to put the ball in the right spot every time. It's a good format in terms of preparing our players for what they are going to feel individually at nationals."

Both the Bears and Pandas had a good showing during their matches in Calgary last week. Their play has given both teams confidence for the Canada Championship.

"Most of the matches came right down to the 17th or 18th holes. Most of them came down to either a right bounce or a putt that fell at the right time for the Calgary. While we only won one event over the weekend, I thought both [the Bears and Pandas] played fairly decently."

"At the beginning of the year we set our goals for the season. The goal this year for both the Bears and Pandas teams is to make the cut at nationals" Stewart said.

"And just like any U of A team we

want to beat the U of C. They got us last weekend, so hopefully we can rebound and better them and also make the cut. I'm certain that with the amount of preparation that we have put in this spring, come nationals, we can meet our goals."

Following the match in Calgary, the University of Alberta golf teams are optimistic that they can meet their goals — culminating with a good finish at the national championships.

However, as the Bears general manager asserts, both the Bears and Panda's teams be challenged at nationals by an elite field of 156 golfers. In order to be successful the UofA teams will need to rely on the keen hitting and consistency from their veteran players.

For the Pandas, team Captain Jennifer Mclean will be charged with the responsibility of encouraging the other Links Pandas to play at the top of their game.

"Jen is our captain and has been the captain of our team since the moment she joined. She has a very outgoing personality. She really cares about golf

"At the begining of the

year we set our goals

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like any team from

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at nationals. And just

the U of A we want to

ROBIN STEWART

GOLF GENERAL MANAGER

for the season. The

Bears and Pandas

and cares about our program. There is no doubt about it, she is the best player that we've got," said Stewart.

"If she can play to her potential and lead the rest of the ladies around that course, I think that we are going be a good team at nationals. In order for us to be successful, she has to play well."

The need for veteran lead-ership is even more important

for the Golf Bears, whose inconsistent play this year can be attributed to the inexperience of the team; their roster consists of three national tournament rookies. Stewart is hoping that the dependable personalities of the team's two veterans, Alex Palmer and Michael McAdam, will ease tension for the rest of the team.

"Mike has a really good sense of humour and he is the element on our team that really helps to diffuse a lot of the pressure within the team. Alex is a very laid back guy. He never gets too upset and is always focused on playing his game," said Stewart.

"I think that the set up of Kingswood fits both of their games very well — they are both very good off the tee and they can both putt really well. If they can get it going at the start, it bodes well for our chances as a team."

While veteran leadership will be a key component to the success of the Bears and Panda's golf squads, Stewart is hoping that his entire team plays to their individual potentials at the national championship.

"All of our players know how to play golf [at a competitive level], they just have to allow themselves to do it. Golf isn't a game of being perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but we want our players to be consistent and playing to their capabilities when it matters most." 14 SPORTS thursday, june 3, 2010 • www.thegatewayonline.ca





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World's best soccer teams collide

Gateway staff pick their favourites to win this year's World Cup tournament



SPORTS STAFF

Group Commentary

The excitement is building as the 2010 World Cup in Johannesburg kicks off in eight days. While the World Cup Trophy will be hoisted 15,608 kilometers away from Edmonton, here at home, the *Gateway* staff forecasts on who will earn soccer glory.



Matt Hirji

Its been 44 years since England hoisted the World Cup, and

while Alf Ramsey won't be on the pitch to lead the Union Jack to victory, England's winless drought will end this summer in Johannesburg.

Led by young veteran striker Wayne Rooney, England's 23-man roster is strong and poised to break out of their championship slump. Italian born manager Fabio Capello seems to have his squad focused on the task at hand: hoisting the Golden Trophy and claiming glory for the homeland in their national sport.

England's road to the World Cup has not been without setbacks. Last year, John Terry's captainship was revoked because of his affair with a former girlfriend of national team teammate Wayne Bridge, who subsequently withdrew his intention to play in South Africa. While this incident was surely a distraction for the team, this year's veteran squad seems more able to deal with the distractions that have haunted previous incarnations of the Three Lions.



Justin Bell

It's a long way from Germany to South Africa, but Les Bleus, France's

national soccer team, will be looking for revenge after a bitter defeat at the 2006 tournament finals.

For those who don't remember, France lost to Italy in the final during extra time, playing a man down when Zinadine Zidane went batshit nuts and headbutted Marco Materazzi, getting a red card in his last match.

That memory will surely haunt this team, replete with returning players. Hopefully, it will also propel them to victory this year.

Expectations on the French side have already been low; they barely squeaked into the World Cup with a draw against the Republic of Ireland on a questionable play. But they started the 2006 slowly as well, tying Switzerland and Korea in their first two matches, barely scraping into the round of 16.

France's combination of speed and finesse will help them this year, with returning striker Thierry Henry up front and midfielder Frank Ribéry feeding him passes. And they're going to need that combination to make it out of their group matches — Mexico and Uruguay could both make life difficult for Les Bleus, and home team South Africa may do better than expected.

But still, look for Henry to hoist the World Cup this year in Johannesburg.



Evan Daum

According to my colleagues, our European founding nations are the

favourites to capture football's biggest prize. While England should waltz through their pool, France surely won't make it into the round of 16, let alone win the whole thing — they shouldn't even be in South Africa. Sorry chaps, but the English will fall before hoisting that

golden trophy just like the French.

My pick to bring home the title is a team that is familiar to football's upper echelon. Having won the European championship in 2008 and being ranked second in the world heading into the tournament, Spain has yet to capture football's greatest prize, but that will all change this time around.

The Spaniards are on an impressive run, having won all 10 of their World Cup qualification matches. Between November of 2006 and June of 2009 campaign, they won a record 15 consecutive matches.

Like other top contenders heading into the tournament, Spain features one of the most balanced attacks, with striker David Villa — the squad's top offensive threat — having scored seven goals in his team's 10 qualifiers.

All this, coupled with the fact that the Spanish have middleweights Switzerland, Honduras, and Chile in their pool, means that when July 11 rolls around, it will be the Red Fury that who finally get their World Cup title.

Deviant athletes don't deserve a third shot



BREN CARGILL

Sports Commentary

the other day, when I picked up the newspaper and flipped to the sports section, there was an article that I couldn't believe was true. The Cincinnati Bengals had signed Adam 'Pacman' Jones to a two-year contract to be a cornerback and return specialist. There is nothing entirely suspect about a team wanting to pick up a well-traveled veteran for depth purposes, Pacman's criminal activities raise questions about why he was allowed to sign an NFL contract.

When it comes to Jones, the word "suspect" has another meaning. This is a man who has been arrested more times than you can keep track of. From assault charges and vandalism in 2005, to being arrested on suspicion for ordering a shooting at a Las Vegas strip club in 2007, to punching out his own bodyguard in 2008, 'Pacman' Jones has a tendency towards disturbing behaviour and has been nothing but trouble for the NFL.

So why has Bengals owner Mike Brown decided to give another troubled player more than a second chance? Jones is a supremely talented player who, when on his game, can be one of the top returners in football and can play corner at a high level. It's the same reason that athletes have always been able to find a place to play no matter what kind of person

they are — talent.

While there's nothing wrong with giving someone a second chance, eventually enough is enough. There are too many instances where talented athletes take advantage of the leniency given to them. Deviant athletes whose actions have negative consequences for the image of sport should be held to the three strikes rule — repeat offenders should be indefinitely disallowed from signing contracts with professional teams. There are too many instances where athletes are given a third chance when they are clearly not deserving of one.

Athletes need to be told that they will not be offered an infinite amount of opportunity to change.

Ben Roethlisberger, who has now been accused of rape as many times as he's won the Super Bowl and nearly killed himself after getting into an accident while riding a motorcycle without a helmet on, is still one of the highest paid players in the NFL. In all fairness, Roethlisberger has never been charged by either of his accusers so at most he can only be chided for is serial bad judgment.

However, the details of the second alleged rape case in the police report were disturbing. He has been suspended by the NFL for a minimum of four games, and a maximum of six, but once he gets back into the lineup and starts winning games, the Steelers and their fans will welcome him

back with open arms.

This pattern of leniency hits close to home as well. The Edmonton Oilers, during Glen Sather's tenure as General Manager, had a habit of picking up players no one else would take and giving them a second chance. Craig MacTavish spent a year in prison after being convicted of DUI and vehicular homicide while playing for the Bruins.

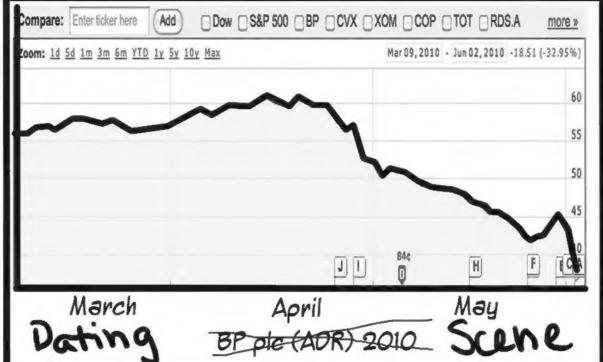
As a coach, MacTavish contributed to the problem. The acquisition of Don Murdoch, who was caught by customs agents in Toronto with 4.5 grams of cocaine stuffed into his socks, was questionable at best.

Murdoch's problems became a distraction for both himself and his team yet he kept getting chance after chance because he was talented. MacTavish managed to turn his life around since then; there's no reason to not give someone a second chance. What is ridiculous is when players are given third, fourth, or even fifth chances to clean up their act.

Professional athletes need to be told that they will not be offered an infinite amount of chances to change. As NBA superstar Latrell Sprewell found out, eventually your time will run out. The former star guard was a great player during his time and played a key role in leading the New York Knicks to the NBA finals in 1999. However, after threatening to shoot a teammate, and choking out his head coach while playing for the Warriors, Sprewell eventually ran out of places to play. Sprewell is a testament to the fact that athletes who refuse to reform after being given a second chance should be shown the door.

SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



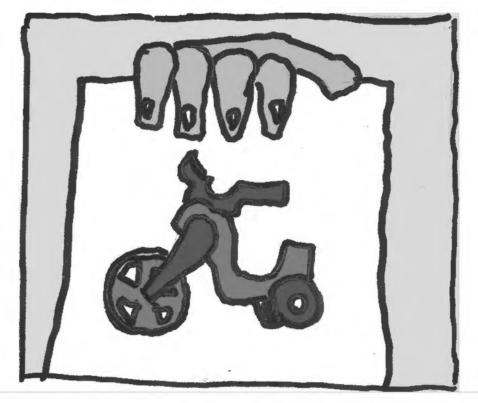




CONSENTING ADULTS by Lance Mudryk and Doug Johnson









PEOPLE WATCHING by Faye Campbell









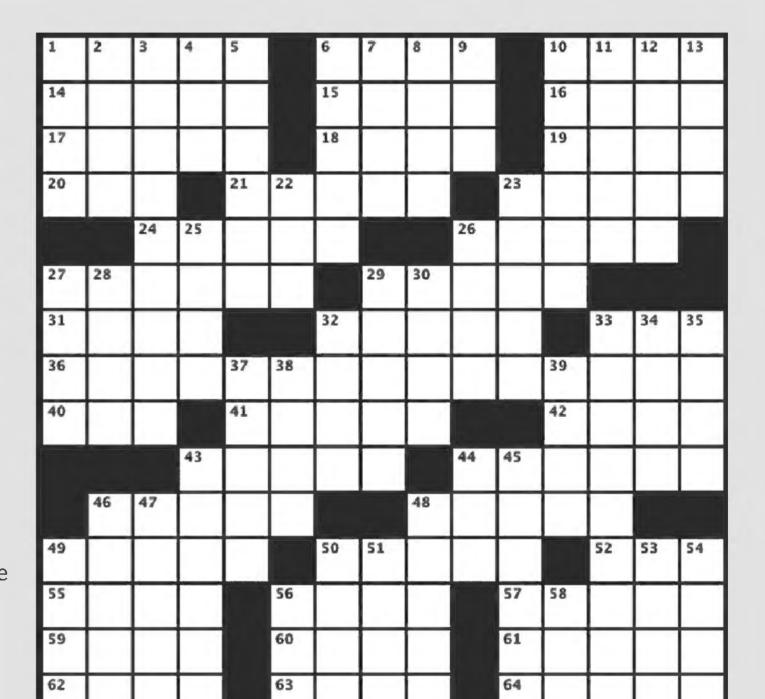


DANMCKECHNIE **SOFT CORNERS** A rally car negotiates May snow at the Rocky Mountain Rally.

Puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com Used with permission.

Across

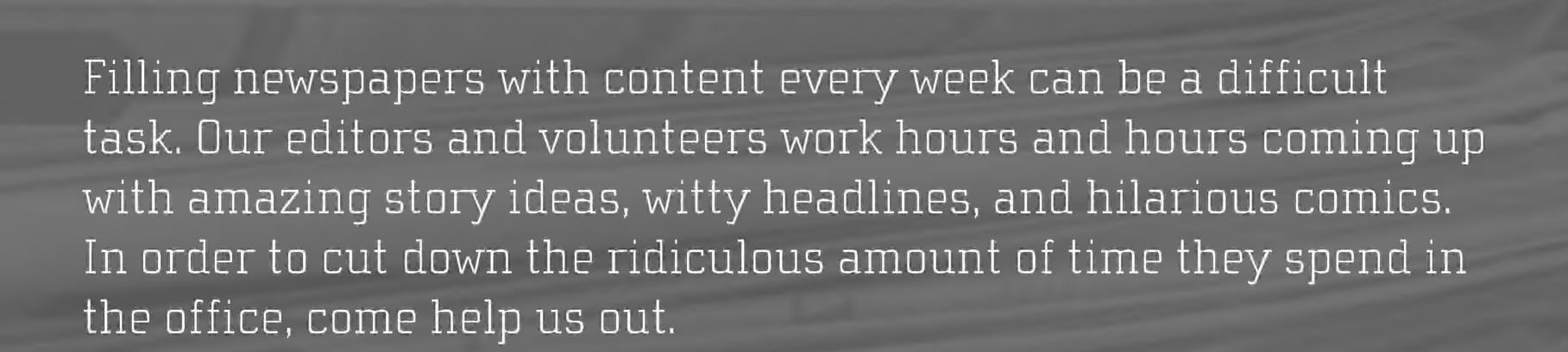
- 1. Split radially 6. Small blemish
- 10. majeste
- Gay
- 15. Soprano Te Kanawa
- 16. Affirm solemnly
- 17. Dress with care
- 18. Frozen treats 19. Capital of Switzerland
- 20. Brief instant
- 21. Gillette razors
- 23. One who favors warlike
- policies 24. Acclaim
- 26. It's often taken after exercise
- 27. Blazing
- 29. Lying flat
- 31. Capital of Calvados, in NW France
- 32. Hot-dog topping
- 33. Tax pro
- 36. One recording the past
- 40. Hesitant sounds
- 41. Wash lightly 42. After the bell
- 43. Flat shelf
- 44. Short essays
- 46. AKA
- 48. Inexpensive
- 49. Headband 50. Facial expression used by
- Elvis Presley
- 52. Turkish title
- 55. Collar type
- 56. Emotional state
- 57. Impressionist Edgar quam videri" (North
- Carolina's motto)
- 60. Annapolis sch. 61. Affectation of sophisticates
- 62. Russian no
- 63. Entrance
- 64. Orchestra section



Down

- 1. Workout count
- 2. Memo heading
- 3. Mute
- 4. "Slippery" tree
- 5. Incendiary fuel 6. Garment worn by women
- 7. Size of type
- 8. Minerals
- the season...
- 10. Likely to change
- 11. 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.
- 12. Suit fabric
- 13. Cube creator Rubik
- 22. kwon do
- 23. Small group ruling a country
- 25. Pious platitudes
- 26. Rain cats and dogs
- 27. Dull pain
- 28. Free from bias 29. Plain writing

- 30. Anger
- 32. Monarch
- 33. Sparkling dry white wine
- 34. Sneaky guy?
- 35. Ancient Athens' Temple
- 37. Mountain nymph
- 38. Frees (of)
- 39. Entreaty
- 43. Young roarer
- 44. Common article
- 45. Guy who tends goats
- 46. Restless
- 47. Unfettered
- 48. Aromatic wood
- 49. Observed
- 50. Indifferent
- 51. Taboo
- 53. Showy trinket 54. Warts and all
- 56. Mire
- 58. Chemical ending



The Gateway is always looking for volunteers interested in writing, photography, and illustrations, and there's plenty of opportunities even over the summer.

THE GATEWAY

Working long summers since 1910

Our next volunteer meeting will be Thursday, June 24 at 5 p.m. in the Gateway offices at 3-04 SUB.

If you can't wait to join the action, email us at gateway@gateway.ualberta.ca to find out how to get started.

You can also check us out online at thegatewayonline.ca